

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



Romantic Adventures

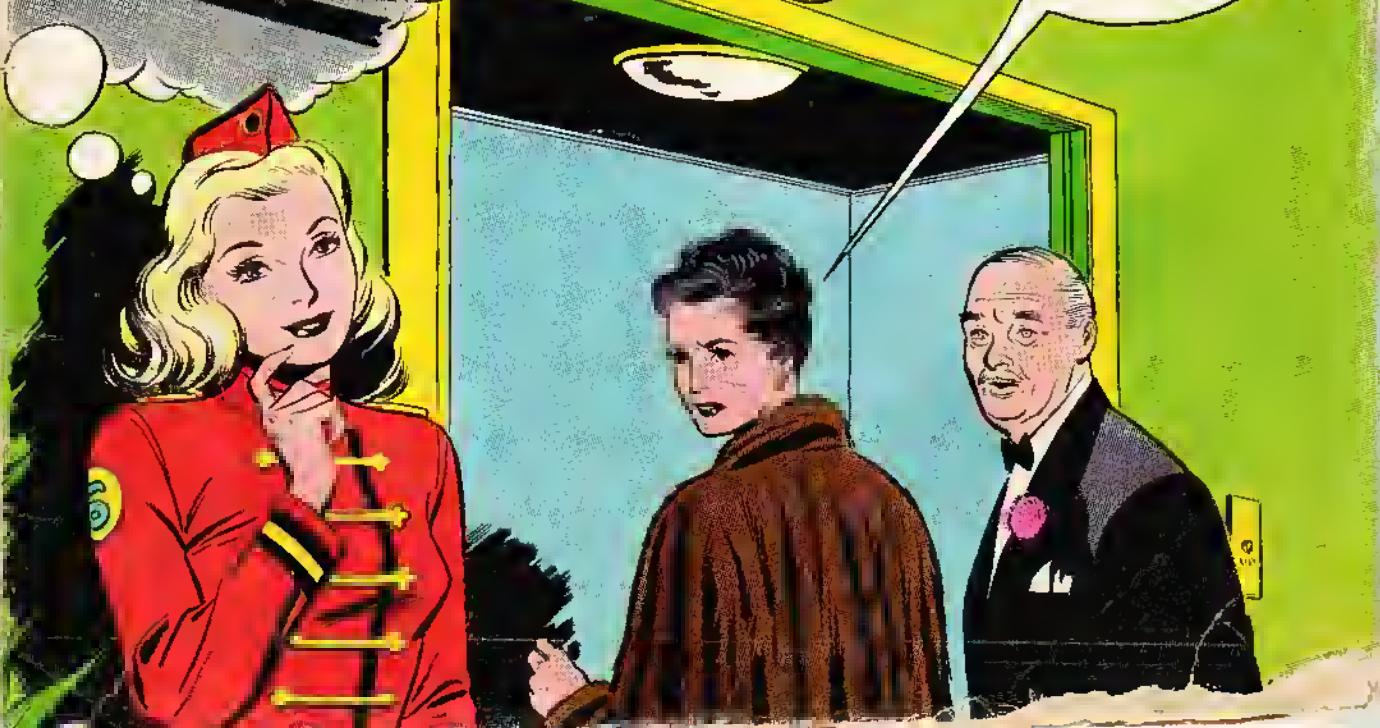
No 6
JAN-FEB.

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

10¢

OH, MY BEAUTIFUL---
I LOVE YOU SO!

THESE STUPID EMPLOYEES! SHE PROBABLY HASN'T A THOUGHT IN HER HEAD!



HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY!

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!

More Up-Lift and Hold-in Power!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the right places, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waistline to nothingness, no matter what shape you may now have. It's easily adjusted — always comfortable!

Test the ADJUST-O-BELT Up-Lift Principle with Your Own Hands!

Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently but firmly. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you, only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!

Appear Slimmer, and Feel Better!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It readjusts easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant slenderizing figure control. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT obeys your every wish. Pounds and inches seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order costing 2 or 3 times the price. It washes like a dream.

Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 44 waist. Only \$3.98



MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE WITH A 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if you don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

FREE: New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

SEND NO MONEY

ADJUST-O-BELT CO., Dept. 199
1025 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Rush your new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT for \$3.98 in size and style check.

Regular.
 C.O.D. I will pay postage, plus handling.
 I enclose \$3.98. You pay postage, plus handling.
CHECK SIZE: Sm. (25-26). Med. (27-28).
 Lg. (29-30). XL (31-32). XXL (34-36).
 XXXL (38-40). XXXXL (42-44).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____ State _____

I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

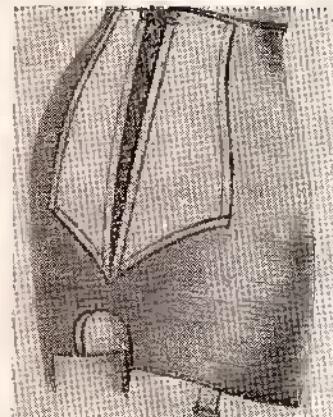
SENT ON APPROVAL



REDUCE

Your Appearance!
Look and Feel Like
Sixteen Again!

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold-in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt is the newest, most comfortable girdle I ever had.



Beautiful Dreamer



"Ever since girlhood, my heart kept whispering to me that someday my KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR would come and sweep me from my feet! With wondrous words of love, he'd snatch me out of the drab, work-a-day world -- carry me to his fabulous castle! I had but to wait -- and meanwhile, to content myself with CASTLES IN THE AIR -- with blissful daydreams that swept me headlong and heart hungry into a man's LOVE WORLD! -- Yet, little did I know the rapturous rapture that awaits the BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!"

"DAYDREAMS -- DAYDREAMS -- THEY WERE THE STUFF OUT OF WHICH MY LIFE WAS MADE! EVEN IN HIGH SCHOOL --"

TODAY'S DISCUSSION WILL BE ON THAT GREAT SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA, *ROMEO AND JULIET* -- ONE OF THE TENDEREST LOVE STORIES EVER TOLD!

ROMEO AND JULIET! THAT ROMANCE MIGHT EVEN HAVE HAPPENED TO ME -- EXCEPT THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN *ROMEO AND HARRIET*!

OH, ROMEO, ROMEO!
WHENCEFORE ART
THOU ROMEO...?

AND HARRIET WRIGHT WILL START OFF WITH HER ASSIGNED ESSAY ON SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE! -- HARRIET! AREN'T YOU LISTENING?

"SUNK IN THE SWEET DEPTHS OF MY DAY. DREAM, I DIMLY HEARD MY NAME BEING CALLED, AS IF FROM ACROSS A VAST GULF OF TIME! STILL IN A TRANCE, I FOUND MYSELF STANDING--UTTERING THE VERY WORDS THAT STILL THROBBED SO PASSIONATELY IN MY MIND!"



"THE RAUCOUS LAUGHTER OF THE CLASS SHATTERED THE SPELL, BROUGHT ME BACK TO HUMILIATING REALITY! I'D DONE IT AGAIN! ONCE MORE MY DAYDREAMS HAD BROUGHT RIDICULE UPON ME!"

"OHHHH! FAR AWAY AGAIN, HARRIET? WELL, WHEN YOU'VE RETURNED TO OUR POOR WORLD, YOU CAN READ US YOUR ESSAY! AND IF IT'S AS BRILLIANT AS ALL YOUR PREVIOUS WORK, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO IGNORE YOUR WOOLGATHERING--AGAIN!"



"DESPITE THE HANDICAP OF MY CONSTANT FLIGHTS INTO THE WORLD OF FANCY, MY GRADES REMAINED THE HIGHEST IN THE SCHOOL! AND AT GRADUATION..."

I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THE AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP TO MISS HARRIET WRIGHT! AND THE RESULTS OF THE CLASS POLL JUST HANDED ME SHOW THAT HARRIET HAS ALSO BEEN VOTED AS THE GIRL MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED!

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE FACT OF HER ALSO BEING CHOSEN CLASS DREAMER WILL NEVER INTERFERE WITH HER FUTURE SUCCESS!

HURRAH!
RAY,
HARRIET!

"MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED--THE WORDS DRUMMED IN MY HEART, INTOXICATING ME WITH THEIR PROMISE! THAT NIGHT I HAD SWEET DREAMS OF MYSELF AS A SUCCESS..."

HARRIET WRIGHT, AS FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR...



"THE NEXT STEP WAS COLLEGE--I THOUGHT! I DIDN'T EXPECT WHAT HAPPENED THEN--THE BUSINESS CRISIS THAT RINGED THE NATION LIKE AN IRON BAND!"



"THE SHOCK WAS FELT MOST IN HOMES LIKE MY OWN--FOR DAD WAS LAID OFF FROM HIS JOB! WITH NO MONEY COMING IN, I KNEW THAT OUR POSITION WOULD SOON BE DESPERATE!"

I--I'M AFRAID WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE AFTER ALL, HARRIET!

I... I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ANYWAY, DAD! I CAN GET A JOB, START A CAREER! ANY GIRL WHO WAS VOTED MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!



"THERE WAS A WEALTHY SCHOOL ALUMNUS WHO HAD ALWAYS HIRED THE TOP GRADUATES OF OUR SCHOOL--SO I WAS CONFIDENT ABOUT FINDING WORK! WHEN I WENT TO SEE HIM..."

YOUR RECORD IS EXCELLENT, MISS WRIGHT! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO START IN MY ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT?

ADVERTISING! THAT COULD BE A REAL CAREER! WHY, I CAN IMAGINE IT NOW---





"THOSE CLEVER ADS MISS WRIGHT IS TURNING OUT -- ALL NEW YORK IS TALKING ABOUT THEM! WHAT SPARKLING COPY -- AND HER LAYOUTS ARE SIMPLY MARVELOUS!"



"DAYDREAMING! I'M SORRY, MISS WRIGHT, I CAN'T HIRE ANYONE WHO HAS TO HAVE QUESTIONS REPEATED FOUR TIMES -- I WANT SOMEONE WHO'S ALERT -- IN TOUCH WITH REALITY!"

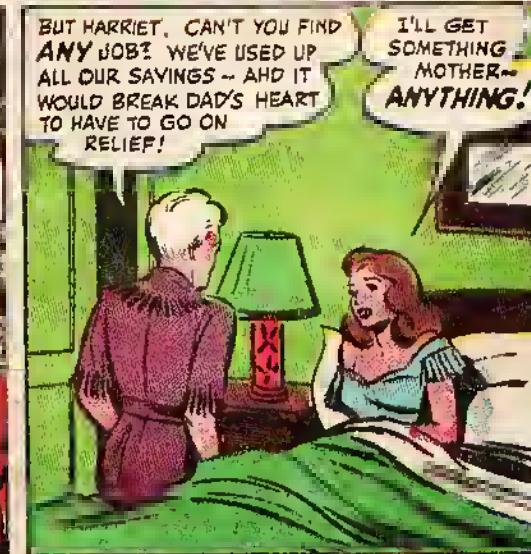


"DESPERATE, I BEGAN SCOURING ALL OF NEW YORK CITY FOR A JOB! THEN, ONE DAY, I READ AN AD CALLING FOR A SECRETARY TO THE MANAGER OF THE EXCLUSIVE HOTEL LACEY--BUT BY THE TIME I GOT THERE..."



"THE GIRL MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED -- AN ELEVATOR OPERATOR! I COULDN'T DO IT-- BUT I HAD TO! I GAZED HELPLESSLY AT THE HANDSOME YOUNG ASSISTANT MANAGER, ALMOST HATING HIM FOR HIS CONFIDENT, MAGNETIC CHARM-- THEN MADE MY DECISION!"

I... I'D HMM, YOU'D BE THE LIKE THAT PRETTIEST OPERATOR ELEVATOR WE EVER HAD-- AND I JOB! WOULDN'T MIND HAVING YOU AROUND! YOU'RE HIRED--ON ONE CONDITION! --THAT YOU AND I GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER-- A LOT BETTER!



"MY HEART FLARED IN SUDDEN ANGER! HE WAS GIVING ME THE JOB BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A WEAPON IN IMPOSING HIMSELF ON ME -- HE THOUGHT HE'D HAVE ME AT HIS MERCY! I KNEW HIS TYPE THEN-- AND DESPISED HIM! AND ALTHOUGH I TOOK THE JOB, I SWORE TO MYSELF I'D NEVER BECOME FRIENDLY WITH HIM!"

HE ASKED FOR A DATE AGAIN TODAY--AS IF I OWED IT TO HIM! AS IF I HAD TO PAY HIM BACK FOR HIS GIVING ME THIS MISERABLE JOB!

"THE MONOTONY OF RIDING UP AND DOWN, DAY AFTER DAY, SOON HAD ME DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO MAKE THE DULL HOURS FLY SWIFTLY BY! AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS BACK TO MY OLD DAYDREAMING HABITS, VIVIDLY IMAGINING A JOLLY KNIGHT, HEROICALLY RESCUING ME FROM THIS DRAGON OF A JOB!"



"BUT WHO WOULD THIS KNIGHT BE? I FOUND MYSELF SEARCHING THE FACE OF EACH MAN WHO ENTERED MY ELEVATOR, WONDERING IF HE WOULD BE THE ONE! BUT THERE WAS ONE MAN WHO WOULD NEVER BE MY PRINCE CHARMING — SMUG, INTOLERABLE DONALD GREENE — THE ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER! THEN, ONE DAY..."



"MY JOB HUNG IN THE BALANCE--AND I LOATHED HIM FOR RESORTING TO SUCH PRESSURE! BUT DAD STILL WASN'T WORKING, AND THE MONEY I BROUGHT IN WAS THE ONLY THING THAT STOOD BETWEEN US AND CHARITY! SO -- "



ALL RIGHT, I... I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU!

SWELL! I'LL PICK YOU UP WHEN YOU COME OFF DUTY--HARRIET!



"THAT NIGHT, MY HEART FILLED WITH A BITTER HATRED FOR DONALD GREENE..."

YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL EYES!

PLEASE, I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T TALK LIKE THAT!



"YOU'RE LOVELY! DON'T... DON'T HOLD ME SO CLOSELY!"



WHEN HE TOOK ME HOME...

DARLING!

NO... DON'T!



"I KNEW I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE HIS LIPS TOUCH MINE -- AND TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME, I LET LOOSE ALL MY PENT-UP HATRED AND SPIRE!"

GET AWAY! WHAT -- I WANTED TO BUY YOUR KISSES? WHY, YOU LITTLE MORON, NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LIKE, I WOULDN'T COME NEAR YOU FOR ALL THE GOLD IN THE WORLD!"



"FROM THAT NIGHT ON, I LIVED IN FEAR OF LOSING MY JOB! I TREMBLED EVERY TIME I SAW DONALD GREENE LOOKING AT ME-- WONDERING WHEN THE BLOW WOULD FALL!"

HE'S JUST TORTURING ME, TOYING WITH ME UNTIL I CRACK FROM THE STRAIN! IF--IF ONLY HE'D GET THIS SUSPENSE OVER WITH!

THOSE FLASHING LIGHTS MEAN THAT YOU HAVE PEOPLE WAITING FOR THE ELEVATOR! BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK--

"IT WAS AS ALWAYS--HE NEVER LOST A CHANCE TO HUMILIATE ME! I HURRIED INTO THE ELEVATOR..."

GOING UP, PLEASE!

PSST, HARRIET, GET A LOAD OF THIS FANCY SOUTH AMERICAN DIPLOMAT BEHIND ME!

TWENTIETH FLOOR FOR HIS EXCELLENCY, SEÑOR FERNANDEZ!

"I GAZED WITH RAPT ENCHANTMENT AT MY DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING PASSENGER! AND THEN, AS HE MET MY GAZE, HE BOWED SLIGHTLY AND SMILED WITH TRUE LATIN-AMERICAN CHIVALRY! MY HEART STARTED TO SOAR, MY MIND TO WANDER! CHIVALRY....!"

"CHIVALRY--KNIGHTHOOD! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF A MAN LIKE HIM TURNED OUT TO BE MY PRINCE CHARMING!"

HARRIET-- YOU'RE PASSING THE TWENTIETH FLOOR!

"AS THE BELLBOY'S WORDS PENETRATED MY FARAWAY DREAM WORLD, I BROUGHT MYSELF SHARPLY BACK TO REALITY--AND AUTOMATICALLY PUT THE ELEVATOR INTO FULL REVERSE!"

I'M--OODPS!

HEY!

"MY FACE BURNED WITH SHAME! BUT THEN, WITH HIS GENTLE, COURTEOUS WORDS, A NEW EMOTION FLOODED TO THE DEPTHS OF MY BEING! IT WAS--INFATUATION!"

YOU MUSTA BEEN CRAZY! WHAT GOT INTO YOU?

NO, THE FAULT IS MINE! IT WAS VERY CLUMSY OF ME TO TUMBLE INTO YOU THAT WAY! A THOUSAND APOLOGIES -- TO A VERY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY!

THERE! NO HARM DONE--EXCEPT TO MY HEART! WE LATINS ARE VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO LOVELY YOUNG SEÑORITAS WITH FLUSHED CHEEKS AND DREAMY EYES -- ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY FALL AS GRACFULLY AS YOU!

GOOD DAY, SEÑORITA!

"I WAS ENTHRALLED BY HIS GALLANTRY, BY HIS SOFT, CARESSING VOICE! ONLY IN MY WILDEST DREAMS HAD I EVER DARED ENVISION SUCH A MAN AS THIS!"

"I COULDN'T KEEP THIS INTOXICATING INFATUATION TO MYSELF--IT BUBBLED UP PAST MY HEART AND OVERFLOWED INTO A WILD SURGE OF ECSTACY!"

AND, OH, MOM, HE HAD THE SOFTEST, TENDEREST VOICE! AND HE KEPT LOOKING AT ME WITH THOSE DARK, BURNING EYES!
THERE, THERE, HARRIET! GET YOUR FEET BACK ON THE GROUND! AFTER ALL, WHO KNOWS IF YOU'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?



"BUT SOMEHOW, I HAD THE FEELING THAT I'D MEET MY PRINCE CHARMING ONCE MORE! AND THE NEXT DAY, JUST BEFORE QUITTING TIME..."

OHHH, HELLO! AH, THE LOVELY SEÑORITA! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME THIS TIME--DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE KNOW HOW I CAN GET TO THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AT LAKE SUCCESS? YOU SEE, THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP TO YOUR WONDERFUL NEW YORK!



"IT WAS THEN THAT I SUMMONED UP ALL MY COURAGE--AND DID THE BOLDEST THING I'D EVER DONE!"

IF... IF YOU CARE TO AN, I COULDN'T WAIT A FEW MINUTES, I'D BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU AROUND! IT'S A... A SERVICE OF THE HOTEL!



"BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, I WAS BEGINNING TO REGRET MY IMPULSIVE DECISION! I FELT ILL AT EASE--I KNEW I DIDN'T BELONG HERE WITH ALL THE DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATICS--WITH SEÑOR FERNANDEZ!"

I--I'LL WAIT OUT HERE UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR BUSINESS!

NONSENSE, MY DEAR--YOU'RE MY GUEST AND YOU BELONG IN THERE WITH ME!

YOUR CREDENTIALS ARE IN ORDER, SENOR FERNANDEZ! THE UNITED NATIONS WELCOMES YOU--AND YOUR GUEST!



"ONCE INSIDE, I WAS INTRODUCED TO WHAT SEEMED LIKE EVERY DIPLOMAT OF FIFTY NATIONS!

ALL OF THEM BOWED GALLANTLY, SOME EVEN KISSED MY HAND WHILE MURMURING COMPLIMENTS! MY HEAD WAS IN A WHIRL--COULD THIS BE ME--A LOWLY ELEVATOR OPERATOR--BEING TREATED LIKE A QUEEN?



MISS WRIGHT, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MONSIEUR FAURE OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION! PAUL, THIS IS MISS HARRIET WRIGHT--A NEW, BUT VERY DEAR FRIEND OF MINE!

CHARMED, MAM'SELLE! JUAN FERNANDEZ IS INDEED LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND SUCH A BEAUTIFUL COMPANION ON HIS FIRST DAY IN NEW YORK!



"THROUGHOUT IT ALL, MY RAPTUROUS THRILL WAS HEIGHTENED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT JUAN MUST HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN ME TO MAKE INQUIRIES AT THE HOTEL--AND FIND OUT MY NAME! AND AFTER HE FINISHED HIS BUSINESS AT THE U.N. --

AND NOW--HARRIET--THE REST OF MY DAY IS FREE! AND SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND, THE LEAST I CAN DO TO REPAY YOU IS TO SEE THAT WE SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY TOGETHER!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOW ME AROUND NEW YORK?

OH, I'D LOVE TO--JUAN!



AND THAT'S THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AHEAD! AN, EVEN SHE--A STATUE IS BEAUTIFUL! BUT THEN, I THINK EVERYTHING SEEKS BEAUTIFUL--WHEN I'M WITH YOU!



"WE CLIMBED
THE SPIRAL
STAIRCASE TO
THE TOP OF THE
 HUGE STATUE
WITH LAUGHING,
JOYOUS HEARTS!"

I BEGAN TO
FEEL AS IF I'D
KNOWN JUAN
ALL MY LIFE!"

I DIDN'T KNOW AMERICAN WOMEN
COULD BE SUCH FUN! HARRIET—
WOULD YOU TAKE PITY ON A LONELY
STRANGER FAR FROM HOME— AND
DO HIM THE GREAT HONOR OF
GOING OUT WITH
HIM TONIGHT?

IT--IT WON'T BE
OUT OF PITY,
JUAN—BUT THE
ANSWER IS
YES!

"I GOT HOME, BREATHLESS WITH EXCITEMENT
--WITH FEAR THAT MY HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION
GOWN --MY ONLY GOWN-- WOULD NOT BE
GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY DATE WITH JUAN!"

OH, MOTHER, DO YOU THINK
THE GOWN'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
HE SAID HE WANTED TO
TAKE ME TO A
NIGHT CLUB!

IT'S YOU, NOT THE
DRESS THAT HE'S
INTERESTED IN! AFTER
ALL, HE'S THE LUCKY
ONE -- GOING OUT
WITH MY BEAUTIFUL
DAUGHTER!



"WHEN JUAN
CALLED FOR ME,
I COULD TELL
BY THE LOOK IN
HIS EYES THAT
MY GOWN WAS
ALL I WANTED
IT TO BE!
MY ONLY FEAR
NOW WAS THAT
THE WHOLE
WORLD COULD
HEAR THE
VIOLENT
THROBBING OF
MY HEART--
IT'S BEATING
AT HIS
NEARNESS..."



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT LAST
NUMBER WAS PLAYED IN HONOR OF
A DISTINGUISHED GUEST--SEÑOR
JUAN FERNANDEZ,
PROMINENT SOUTH
AMERICAN DIPLOMAT!

SO THAT'S
HIM! BUT WHO'S
THAT BEAUTIFUL
GIRL HE'S
WITH?



"I KNEW THAT WE WERE THE FOCUS OF ALL
EYES -- AND MY HEART SOARED WITH
PRIDE! YES, THIS WAS THE GREATEST,
HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE!"

"WHEN WE DANCED, JUAN'S STRONG
ARMS HELD ME THRILLINGLY CLOSE!
I WANTED HIM TO CLASP ME
TIGHT--NEVER LET ME GO!
THEN..."

YOU MUST BE
USED TO THE
SPOTLIGHT BY
NOW! THE
WHOLE NIGHT-
CLUB IS STARING
AT YOU -- EVEN
THOSE THREE
HARD-LOOKING
MEN OVER
THERE!

WHERE? --
CARRAMBA!
--LET'S GET
OUT OF
HERE!

BUT, JUAN -- **THOSE MEN!**
WHAT THEY'RE MEMBERS
IS IT? OF A REVOLUTIONARY
GANG IN MY COUNTRY--
AND THEY WOULD DO
ANYTHING TO DEFEAT
MY MISSION HERE! THEY
KNOW THAT IF I NEGOTIATE
THE BIG LOAN I'M WORKING
ON, THEY'LL NEVER BE
ABLE TO OVERTHROW
MY GOVERNMENT!



"THEN, OUTSIDE, ON THE
DESERTED MIDNIGHT STREET..."

OH! THEY MUST HAVE
USED ANOTHER
EXIT!

THERE HE
IS! **GET
HIM!**



"GRIMLY, JUAN CLOSED WITH HIS ENEMIES -- AS AN AWFUL FEAR HELD HE FROZEN TO THE SPOT!"



"IT WAS THEN, WITH MY MAN MENACED, THAT I FIRST KNEW THE EXTENT OF MY LOVE! HE WOULDN'T DIE -- NOT WHILE I LIVED! NEXT MOMENT, I FOUND MYSELF DESPERATELY CLAWING, SCRATCHING AT THE MAN NEAREST ME, PRAYING THAT I COULD DISTRACT HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR JUAN TO FIGHT FREE!"



"DIABLO! I WILL FIX YOU...!"

"OHHH!"



"MY HEAD STRUCK THE BRICK WALL, AND A SICKENING PAIN OVERWHELMED ME! WAS THIS THE END?"

"POR DIOS! I WILL TEACH YOU NOT TO STRIKE A WOMAN!"



"I FELT JUAN'S STRONG ARMS LIFTING ME, SUPPORTING ME! MY STRENGTH FLOWED BACK IN A SURGE! NOW I FEARED ONLY FOR HIS SAFETY!"

"JUAN... CALL THE POLICE!"

"NO, LITTLE ONE! PUBLICITY WOULD RUIN MY MISSION! COME, I WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE HOTEL!"

"I FEEL BETTER NOW -- I'LL GO!"

"HARRIET -- YOU FOUGHT FOR ME! IS IT POSSIBLE YOU CARE FOR ME AS MUCH AS I -- LOVE YOU?"

"IF YOU WENT HOME LIKE THIS, YOU WOULD FRIGHTEN YOUR MOTHER! YOU CAN REST IN MY ROOM UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER!"

"ALL RIGHT -- JUAN!"

"B. GREEN
ASST. MANAGER"



"HE WAS TENDER AS HE SPONGED MY FOREHEAD! SOON I BEGAN WISHING THAT THE PAIN WOULDN'T GO AWAY -- THAT HIS GENTLE HANDS WOULD NEVER LEAVE MY FACE! COULD IT BE THAT HE CARED? IT WASN'T SO! IT WAS ANOTHER OF MY OLD DAYDREAMS -- PERHAPS I SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE I LEARNED THE CRUEL TRUTH!"



"HIS WORDS
KINDED MY
HEART TO A FIERCE
EXULTATION--
I HAD FOUND
MY PRINCE
CHARMING
AT LAST!"

I KNEW THAT
MY ADORATION
WAS SHINING FROM
MY EYES, AND
I HUNGERED
FOR HIS KISS!
IT CAME, BURNING,
SAVAGE YET
TENDER--BUT
SUDDENLY--"



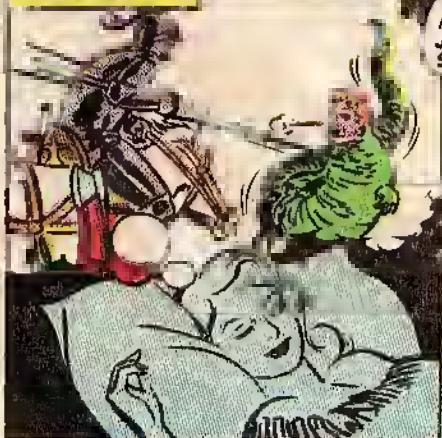
"MY FLAMING RAGE HAD SPOILED OUR LOVE SCENE--
BUT I FEEL A STRANGE SATISFACTION! AT LAST I'D
TOLD DON GREENE OFF -- HAD HURT HIM WHERE
HE WAS VULNERABLE!"



"BUT AT
MY DOORSTEP,
JUAN SWEPT
ME INTO HIS
ARMS AND
ARDENTLY
COVERED MY
FACE WITH
KISSES!
AND WHEN HIS
LIPS REACHED
MINE,
I FOUND
MYSELF WILDLY
KISSING HIM
BACK,
MY HEART
FILLED
WITH
SEETHING
LOVE!"



"MY SLEEP WAS SWEET THAT NIGHT--ALL
THE SWEETER BY GLOWING DREAMS OF
MY GALLANT PRINCE BATTLING AGAINST
THE ONE DRAGON I HATED MOST IN ALL
THE WORLD!"



"THE NEXT MORNING..."

HARRIET--I WENT QUIETLY
LAST NIGHT BECAUSE I DIDN'T
WANT TO MAKE A SCENE! BUT
YOU'RE CRAZY GOING WITH
A MAN LIKE THAT--YOU'RE
JUST A LAMB BEING LED TO
SLAUGHTER! YOU CAN'T
TRUST HIM--

HE LOVES ME--

WHY, YOU
ENVIOUS--?
YOU CAN'T
BREAK US
UP BY SAYING
THINGS LIKE
THAT! BECAUSE
JUAN TOLD ME
HE LOVES ME--

AND I'M SURE I
CAN TRUST THE
MAN WHO'S GOING
TO BE MY
HUSBAND!

AND THAT'S WHY I'M NOT
AFRAID OF YOU ANY MORE--
GO AHEAD AND FIRE ME
NOW! BECAUSE I'LL
SOON BE MRS. JUAN
FERNANDEZ!

OH, BROTHER--
WHAT A FALL
YOU'RE LETTING
YOURSELF IN
FOR!



"IT HAS DONE! I'D FINALLY EMERGED VICTOR OVER DONALD GREENE -- HE'D NEVER HURT ME AGAIN! ABSORBED IN MY TRIUMPH, I SCARCELY NOTICED THE THREE PASSENGERS WHO ENTERED MY ELEVATOR SOON AFTERWARDS!"

FLOORS,
PLEASE?

WE WANT
ROOM 2003—
TWENTIETH FLOOR,
RIGHT?

"ROOM 2003 WAS JUAN'S ROOM! I TURNED TO LOOK AT THE MEN -- AND FROZE WITH HORROR!"

YOU - YOU'RE THE SAME MEN WHO ATTACKED JUAN!

IT'S THE GIRL WHO WAS WITH HIM!

TAKE US UP TO HIS FLOOR-- OR ELSE!

"TERROR-STRIKED, UNABLE TO THINK, I TOOK THEM UP! AND THEN..."

HURRY! THAT'S A SHORT FUSE! WE'LL LEAVE THE GIRL IN THE HALL, SO SHE CAN'T TESTIFY AGAINST US! THE BOMB WILL FINISH BOTH OF THEM — WHILE WE GET AWAY IN THE ELEVATOR!

2003

NO... STOP!

BOOM!

WHA--?
WE'RE FALLING!

THE EXPLOSION BROKE THE CABLE! WE'LL BE KILLED!

HELP!

CASH!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE HOTEL BASEMENT . . .

THEY - THEY
DIDN'T HAVE A
CHANCE! HOW
DID IT
HAPPEN?

MR. GREENE - MR. GREENE!
THERE'S A FIRE ON THE
TWENTIETH FLOOR!
IN THE NORTH
WING!

AND THE ELEVATOR THAT JUST CRASHED WAS THE
ONLY ONE SERVICING THE NORTH WING! I'LL
HAVE TO GO UP IN THE SOUTH ELEVATOR AND
TRY TO GET ACROSS TO THE FIRE! THIS ROPE
MIGHT HELP IF ANYONE'S
TRAPPED UP
THERE!



"THE EXPLOSION
HAD STUNNED ME,
LEFT ME DAZED AND
TREMBLING!"

BUT AS I
SUMMONED BACK
MY WITS AND
STRENGTH, ONE
NAME KEPT
THROBBING
PAINFULLY IN MY
MIND --- JUAN,
JUAN! IF HE
WAS STILL ALIVE,
I HAD TO
SAVE HIM."



"HE'S IN THERE -- TRAPPED
BY FIRE! I HAVE TO
GET TO HIM!"



"SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THE
WALL OF FLAMES -- AND FOUND JUAN LYING
UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR! THERE WAS ONLY
ONE POSSIBLE ESCAPE FROM THE SEARING FIRE
--- THE LEDGE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!"

OH, JUAN, JUAN, IF
YOU DON'T LIVE, I
WANT TO DIE,
TOO!



"WITH A DESPERATE STRENGTH I
DIDN'T KNOW I POSSESSED, A
STRENGTH BORN OF LOVE, I DRAGGED
JUAN OUT ONTO THE LEDGE!"

WELL, I GOT HIM OUT OF THE FIRE --
BUT NOW WE'RE IN THE FRYING PAN!
THOSE GARGOYLES TRAP US HERE
--- AND THE FLAMES FROM THE
WINDOW WILL REACH US
IN A FEW MINUTES!



"JUST THEN, THROUGH THE CRACKLING
OF THE FLAMES, I HEARD MY NAME
BEING CALLED -- BY A HATED VOICE!"

HARRIET! QUICK, CATCH
THIS ROPE AND TIE IT
ON TO THE GARGOYLE
HORNS!



"INSTINCTIVELY, WILLING TO ACCEPT
HELP FROM ANY QUARTER IF IT
MEANT SAVING JUAN'S LIFE, I
FOLLOWED THE SHOUTED
INSTRUCTIONS!"

I TIED THE ROPE TO A STEAM-
PIPE ON MY SIDE -- IF YOUR
KNOT ISN'T TIGHT, HEAVEN
HELP US!



"MOMENTS LATER, DON WAS ON THE LEDGE, AND I BEGAN BREATHING EASIER, FOR I KNEW MY LOVE WOULD BE SAVED!"

LUCKY I HAD
SOME ROPE LEFT OVER--
I'LL LOWER YOUR BOY-
FRIEND FIRST, SINCE
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
--- GRAB HIM,
DOWN THERE!

WE GOT
HIM!

"THEN, I FOUND MYSELF SWEEPED OFF
MY FEET -- AND IN MID-AIR!"

OHHH!
THAT LEDGE WAS GETTING
TOO HOT FOR COMFORT ---
WE'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN
THIS WAY! AND EVEN
THOUGH YOU HATE IT --
YOU'D BETTER
HOLD TIGHT!

"I DID HATE IT! AND ONCE INSIDE THE
ROOM BELOW, I MOVED HASTILY AWAY
FROM DON!"

THE GUY'S OKAY --
JUST INHALED A
LITTLE TOO MUCH
SMOKE! DAY OR
TWO IN THE
HOSPITAL WILL
FIX HIM UP!

THANK HEAVENS! OR--
I... I SUPPOSE I OUGHT
TO THANK
YOU, SKIP IT! HE'S
DON, ALIVE AND YOU'VE
GOT WHAT YOU
WANT! AND NOW
I'VE GOT TO SEE
ABOUT GETTING THE
FIRE UNDER
CONTROL!

"I FORGOT DON --
AND FOR THE NEXT
FEW DAYS, WENT
ABOUT MY DUTIES
WITH A SINGING
HEART!"

FOR WASN'T THERE
ONLY A BLISSFUL
MARRIED LIFE
AHEAD FOR JUAN
AND MYSELF?
FINALLY, I LEARNED
THAT JUAN HAD
RETURNED FROM
THE HOSPITAL --
MY ELEVATOR ON
THE NINETEENTH
FLOOR, I RUSHED
INTO HIS NEW ROOM!"

"SOMETHING IN HIS TONE JOLTED ME, PIERCED
MY HEART! I STEPPED BACK..."

LOOK, MY DEAR! YOU'RE LOVELY, AND I LIKE YOU
VERY MUCH -- BUT MARRIAGE NEVER ENTERED
MY MIND! YOU'RE FORGETTING THE
DIFFERENCE IN OUR
POSITIONS! I'M
A DIPLOMAT -- AND
MARRIAGE TO AN
ELEVATOR GIRL
IS UNTHINKABLE!

BUT-- BUT YOU SAID YOU
LOVED ME! AND I WAS
WILLING TO SACRIFICE
EVERYTHING -- I RISKED
MY LIFE TO SAVE
YOURS!

"I WAS
BEWILDERED,
UNABLE TO
BELIEVE MY
EARS!
I WAS SURE
THAT HE WAS
PLAYING SOME
JOKE ON ME --
THAT IN A
MOMENT HE'D
MAKE SOME
GESTURE
THAT WOULD
PROVE HIS
LOVE!"

AND THEN HE
DID
MAKE
A
GESTURE!"

OH, JUAN, YOU'RE BACK! NOW
WE CAN BE MARRIED AND YOU'LL
TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!

MARRIED?



REALLY, I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR
SAVING MY LIFE! AND SINCE I'D LIKE
TO REPAY YOU, I'VE DECIDED TO
MAKE YOU A HANDSOME PRESENT--
THIS MONEY!



"HE WAS OFFERING
ME MONEY -- TO
BUY OFF MY LOVE!

IT WAS THEN THAT
I REALIZED I'D
BEEN A LITTLE
FOOL -- THAT TO
A MAN LIKE THIS,
I WAS BUT A
PLAYTHING!

BITTER, RAGING
HATRED SUDDENLY
OVERWHELMED
ME --
AND I NOW
LOATHED AND
DESPISED THIS
MAN WHOM
I'D ONCE
THOUGHT
I LOVED!"

"WHY, YOU CHEAP,
CONTEMPTIBLE -- !

"BRAVO! BRAVO.
YOU ONCE CALLED
ME THOSE NAMES,
BUT ON HIM
THEY LOOK
GOOD!"

"LUCKY FOR ME I CAME UP TO
SEE WHY YOUR ELEVATOR
WASN'T RUNNING -- BECAUSE
THIS GIVES ME A CHANCE
I'VE WANTED FOR A LONG
TIME!"

"I STARED WONDERINGLY AT DON, AS IF
I'D NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE! SUDDENLY,
I FELT AN OLD SENSATION COMING BACK --
AN OLD DREAMLIKE FEELING! ONLY
THIS TIME ... "

"WELL, I'LL BE
GOING -- NOW
THAT YOU TURNED
DOWN A **REAL**
MAN'S LOVE FOR
A PHONEY'S CHEAP
IMITATION!"

"WAIT, DON -- LISTEN
TO ME! ALL ALONG
I THOUGHT YOUR
LOVE WAS FALSE,
AND UJIAN'S
WAS TRUE! BUT
NOW I SEE I
WAS BETRAYED
BY MY OWN FOOLISH
DAYDREAMS..."

-- ALL EXCEPT THE **LAST**
DAYDREAM! BECAUSE THAT
ONE SHOWED ME **YOU'RE**
THE MAN WHO REALLY LOVED
ME -- AND THAT **I LOVED**
YOU! THE ONLY REASON
I FOUGHT AGAINST YOU ALL THIS
TIME WAS THAT I DOUBTED
YOUR SINCERITY! BUT NOW
THERE'S NO DOUBT LEFT --
ONLY LOVE, DARLING!
**YOU'RE THE MAN I
WANT!**"

"SWEETHEART!
I'VE WAITED
FOR THIS DAY!"

"AND WITH HIS FIRST KISS, I KNEW A RAPTUROUS
BUSS FAR BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS --- A
HAPPINESS THAT WOULD BE MINE FOREVER!
THIS WAS TRUE LOVE!"

"THIS IS WHAT CAME OF IT, READER! NO, NOT A
DAYDREAM THIS TIME, BUT **REALITY!** FOR,
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, **REAL LIFE** CAN HOLD
RAPTUROUS ROMANCE THAT BEATS THE DREAM
WORLD A MILLION WAYS! **TAKE IT FROM**
SOMEONE WHO'S LEARNED!"

"THE END"

The ACID Test

SUSAN knew that her heart showed in her eyes every time she looked at Craig Radcliffe. She was in love with him, had been in love with him from the instant she saw him. And Craig? She felt he loved her too, though he had never really said it.

"Why not?" she wondered, leaning back in Craig's car, close enough to Craig so that her cheek touched his shoulder. "Why hasn't he told me? What's stopping him?"

Craig slowed the car down and eased into a parking spot in front of an elegant little house. "I've a surprise for you, darling," he told Susan. "We're going to visit . . . my mother!"

Suddenly, Susan had her answer. She had it in the way Craig had said those two words . . . "my mother." "So that's it!" she thought. "I never thought of that. Of course! Craig's mother is to decide . . . to be the judge! Before Craig tells me he loves me, I have to pass the acid test. I must be approved by Craig's mother!"

Mrs. Radcliffe greeted them in a small drawing room, where a table had already been set for tea. "So this is Susan!" she said brightly. "Craig's mentioned your name often, my dear, I must confess you're not what I expected! However . . ."

"We've just met," Susan thought, "and already I don't live up to expectations! If she has her way, I'll be just another girl to Craig before this visit is over! I wonder . . ."

Craig's mother, pouring tea into a delicate china cup, was telling Susan how valuable the tea set was, how much she prized it. Somehow, she managed to imply that Susan wasn't used to such lovely things.

A surge of resentment passed through Susan. Was she to lose Craig

this way, through the wily scheming and plotting of a jealous mother? Her hand slipped as she received the china cup and . . . down went the cup on the tea table, falling into a hundred shell-like fragments!

"I . . . I'm sorry," Susan said, but Mrs. Radcliffe did not allow her to apologize. "Clumsy!" she snapped. "Awkward, clumsy creature! My best china, a family treasure! Craig, darling I believe I'm going to faint . . . get your mother some smelling salts, my dear!"

"Don't go, Craig!" Susan laid a hand on his arm. "I don't think your mother will faint . . . will you, Mrs. Radcliffe?"

Mrs. Radcliffe was livid with rage and shock. No one had ever defied her . . . ever! "How dare you?" she sputtered, and forgetting her faintness, rose and confronted Susan.

"If you don't mind, Craig, I'd like to go," said Susan, also rising. "I think you can see that your mother is not going to be ill!"

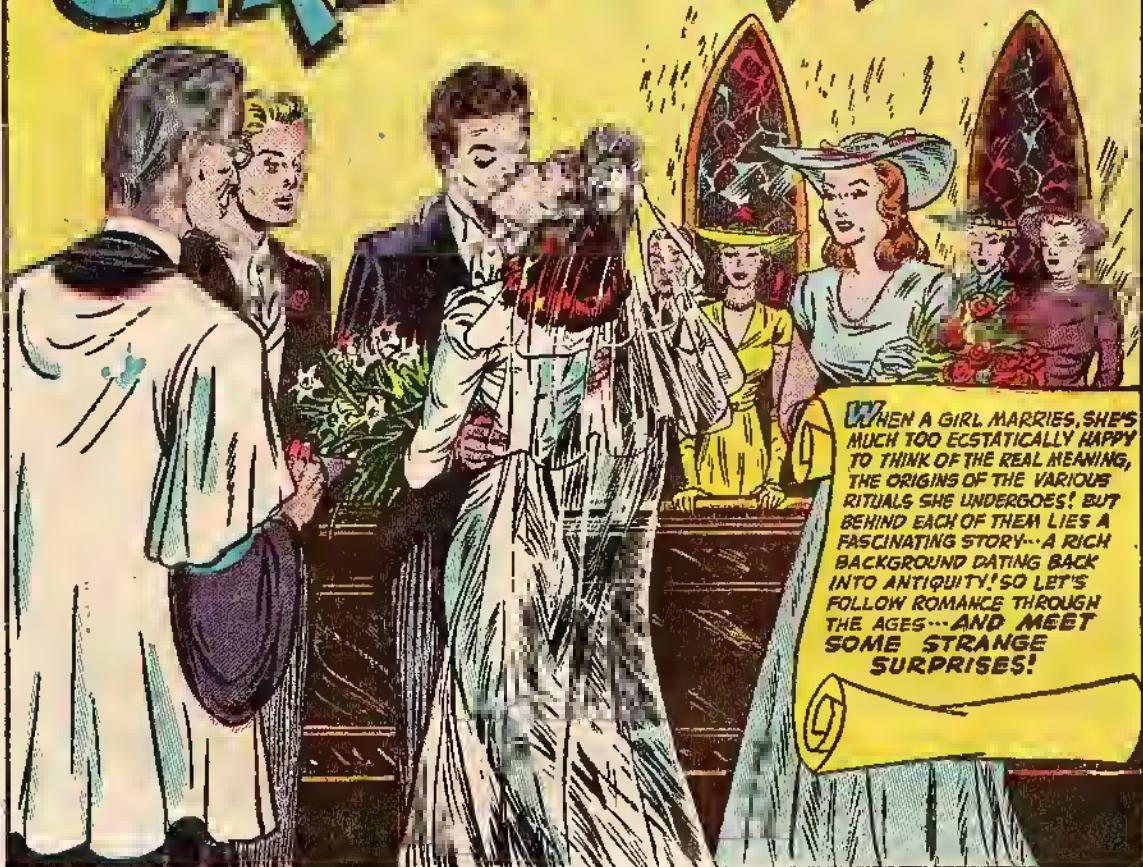
"Don't leave me, Craig," his mother commanded. "She can find her way out herself!"

"But she's not going to, mother," said Craig grimly. "I'm going with her! I'm glad to see that you're perfectly well again. Goodbye!"

In the car, Craig turned to Susan and took her in his arms. "Darling," he said, "I don't know why I never told you before, but . . . I love you!"

Before she answered his kiss, Susan thought for a fleeting instant, "I know why, my love . . . and I'll always be grateful to the inspiration that made me drop that cup . . . so you could see what your mother was trying to do . . . to us! That broke the apron strings and you're mine—all mine!"

When a GIRL MARRIES



WHEN A GIRL MARRIES, SHE'S MUCH TOO ECSTATICALLY HAPPY TO THINK OF THE REAL MEANING, THE ORIGINS OF THE VARIOUS RITUALS SHE UNDERGOES! BUT BEHIND EACH OF THEM LIES A FASCINATING STORY... A RICH BACKGROUND DATING BACK INTO ANTIQUITY! SO LET'S FOLLOW ROMANCE THROUGH THE AGES... AND MEET SOME STRANGE SURPRISES!

THE TROUSSEAU... THE TROUSSEAU HAS ITS ORIGIN IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MARRIAGE BY PURCHASE, WHEN A MAN BOUGHT HIS BRIDE AND EXPECTED HIS FUTURE FATHER-IN-LAW TO COMPENSATE HIM BY GIVING THE BRIDE A SUPPLY OF GOODS AND CLOTHES IN A BUNDLE! THE WORD "AU KELLY ANT LITTLE BUNDLE!"



THE BRIDAL VEIL... A REMINDER OF AN ANCIENT TIME WHEN THE BRIDE WAS ACTUALLY SHROUDED FROM HEAD TO FOOT TO SHOW HER SUBMISSION... AND TO KEEP HER MODEST!



THE BEST MAN... WHEN THE EARLY BRIDEGROOM SET OUT TO CAPTURE A BRIDE, HE WAS ASSISTED BY WARRIOR WHO HELPED HIM SEIZE HER AND MAKE GOOD HIS ESCAPE FROM HER FAMILY! THUS, THE BEST MAN AND THE GROOMSMEN ARE RELICS OF THESE WARRIORS!



THE BRIDESMAIDS...AS THE BRIDE-GROOM'S FIGHTING FRIENDS DEVELOPED INTO THE GROOMSMEN, SO DID THE BRIDE'S MAIDS AND ATTENDANTS, WHO TRIED TO RESCUE HER FROM THE GROOM'S PARTY, DEVELOP INTO THE BRIDESMAID AT A WEDDING!



GIVING THE BRIDE AWAY...THIS IS REALLY A RELIC OF THE TIME WHEN THE BRIDE WAS ACTUALLY SOLD BY HER FATHER TO THE MAN WHO WOULD PAY THE MOST IN MONEY OR GOODS!



THE WEDDING RING...AMONG PRIMITIVE TRIBES, A WOMAN WORE FETTERS AROUND HER WRISTS AND ANKLES TO INDICATE THAT SHE HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND WAS THE PROPERTY OF ONE MAN IN THE TRIBE--AND THE WEDDING RING IS THE SOLE REMAINING SYMBOL OF HER ANCIENT BONDAGE!



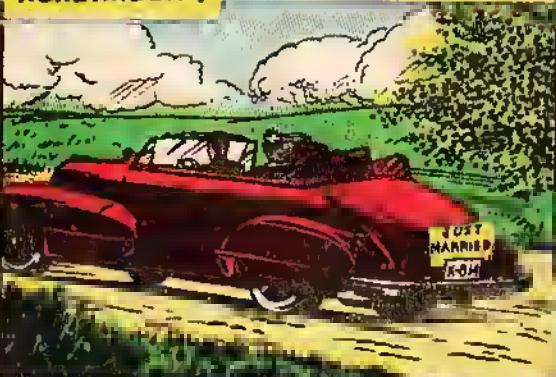
THROWING THE SHOE...WHEN A BARGAIN HAD BEEN MADE AMONG THE ANCIENTS, A MAN GAVE HIS SANDAL TO SYMBOLIZE THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY--AND SO, HURLING THE SHOE AFTER THE BRIDE COMPLETES THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND AUTHORITY FROM HER FATHER TO HER HUSBAND!



THROWING THE BRIDAL BOUQUET...IN MEDIEVAL FRANCE, IT WAS CONSIDERED A LUCKY THING TO WIN SOME PROPERTY OF THE BRIDE! THE IDEA WAS CONCEIVED OF THROWING HER BRIDAL BOUQUET--AND THE CUSTOM HAS REMAINED EVER SINCE!



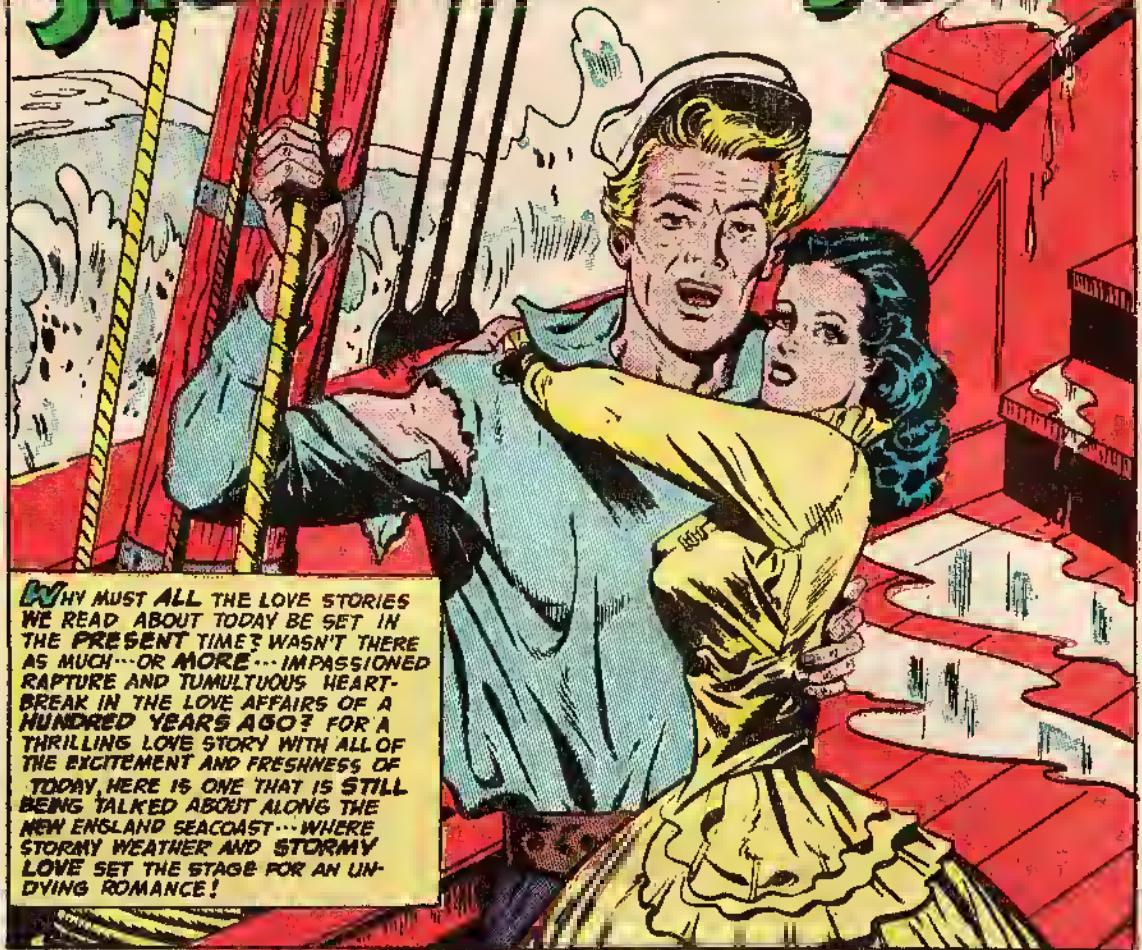
THE HONEYMOON...IN THE DAYS OF MARRIAGE BY CAPTURE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BRIDE-GROOM TO REMAIN IN HIDING WITH HIS PRIZE UNTIL HER KINSMEN GREW TIRED OF SEARCHING FOR HER! DURING THIS PERIOD OF ABOUT A MONTH, THE GROOM WOULD CELEBRATE BY DRINKING WINE MADE FROM HONEY--AND SOON THE HIDEAWAY PERIOD WAS CALLED THE "HONEY MONTH" OR "HONEYMOON"!



CARRYING THE BRIDE OVER THE THRESHOLD...WHEN BRIDES WERE SEIZED, THE MERE FACT THAT THE MAN HAD CARRIED THE GIRL OFF HAS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HER THAT HE WAS STRONG AND DOMINATING! BUT TODAY, THE SYMBOL OF THE MAN'S DOMINANCE REMAINS ONLY IN THE QUaint CUSTOM OF CARRYING THE BRIDE OVER THE THRESHOLD!



SWEETHEART *of the* SEAS!



WHY MUST ALL THE LOVE STORIES WE READ ABOUT TODAY BE SET IN THE PRESENT TIME? WASN'T THERE AS MUCH... OR MORE... IMPASSIONED RAPTURE AND TUMULTUOUS HEARTBREAK IN THE LOVE AFFAIRS OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO? FOR A THRILLING LOVE STORY WITH ALL OF THE EXCITEMENT AND FRESHNESS OF TODAY, HERE IS ONE THAT IS STILL BEING TALKED ABOUT ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND SEACOAST... WHERE STORMY WEATHER AND STORMY LOVE SET THE STAGE FOR AN UNDYING ROMANCE!

OUR STORY OPENS ON A GALE-TOSSED NIGHT OFF THE ROCK-RIBBED COAST OF MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS... A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

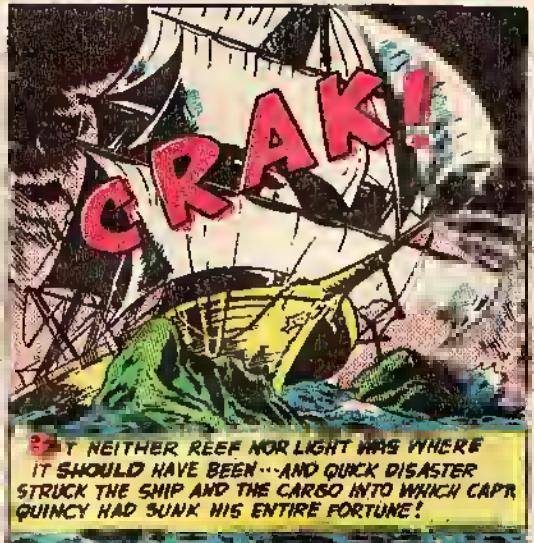
I THOUGHT THE WARNING LIGHT OFF ANDREW'S REEF HAD BLOWN OUT... BUT THERE SHE IS AGAIN... ON OUR PORT SIDE!... QUICK, STEER HER TWO POINTS TO THE SOU'WEST... THAT'LL KEEP US OFF THE REEF!

AYE, AYE,
CAP'N
QUINCY!



CRACK!

NEITHER REEF NOR LIGHT WAS WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN... AND QUICK DISASTER STRUCK THE SHIP AND THE CARBO INTO WHICH CAPT QUINCY HAD SUNK HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE!



IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE HOW THE ONCE PROUD CAPTAIN QUINCY DETERIORATED INTO A HOPELESS, BROKEN OLD MAN! WITHIN ONE SHORT YEAR AFTER HIS SHIP HAD BEEN WRECKED AND MYSTERIOUS MARAUDERS HAD MADE OFF WITH THE CARGO, THE ONCE PROSPEROUS QUINCY HOUSEHOLD DESCENDED INTO ABJECT POVERTY!



"MY HIGH HOPES BEGAN TO FADE AS I SAW HOW COLDLY THE BRANCH MANAGER LISTENED TO MY STORY! AND THEN, WHEN I'D FINISHED PLEADING FOR A JOB, ANY KIND OF A JOB..."



I'M THOMAS WINTHROP--AND I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE IN TRYING TO BE THE FIRST GIRL IN MARBLEHEAD TO DO OFFICE WORK! I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE TOWN'S TABOOS, BUT I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU!



I--I'M ELIZABETH QUINCY--THE DAUGHTER OF CAPTAIN JOSIAH QUINCY!

HMM, NOT THE CAPTAIN QUINCY WHO LOST HIS SHIP ABOUT A YEAR AGO? HE HAD AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION... AND A LOT OF CONTACTS AROUND THE HARBOR! PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU BY HELPING HIM! I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR FATHER!



B HARDLY DARED HOPE THAT ANYTHING WOULD COME OF THIS, THAT THE WEALTHY MR. WINTHROP WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN OUR PLIGHT! BUT WHEN I BROUGHT HIM TO OUR HOUSE--

YES, CAPTAIN QUINCY, I CAN USE A MAN LIKE YOU! IF YOU CAN CIRCULATE AROUND THE HARBOR AND FIND OUT WHAT CARGO INCOMING SHIPS ARE CARRYING, YOU'VE GOT A JOB! WITH YOUR INFORMATION, MY AGENTS CAN MAKE THE FIRST OFFER

BE MUCH PAY IN IT--

I'M NOT ASKIN' MUCH PAY, MR. WINTHROP! I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO EARN A LITTLE MONEY AGAIN--

GRATEFUL!



"AND I WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE DAY I'D MET MR. WINTHROP---FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR, OUR FAMILY BEGAN TO HAVE ENOUGH FOOD ON THE TABLE! BUT EVEN THOUGH OUR CONDITION WAS IMPROVING, OTHERS WEREN'T SO LUCKY! WRECKS ALONG THE COAST BECAME MORE FREQUENT---AND CARGO DEPRADATIONS ALWAYS FOLLOWED!"



"BUT FOR ME, THERE WAS A NEW-FOUND HAPPINESS, FAR BEYOND MY FONDEST DREAMS---THOMAS WINTHROP SEEMED TO BE INTERESTED IN ME!"

"GOODBYE---WE WON'T BE HOME LATE, MOTHER!"

"IT WAS A LUCKY DAY FOR US WHEN ELIZABETH CAUGHT THE EYE OF A MAN LIKE WINTHROP!"



"YES, MY IMPORTING BUSINESS IS PROFITABLE---VERY PROFITABLE! WHY, IF I WANTED TO, I COULD BUY OUT A DOZEN FLEETS OF BIG CLIPPER SHIPS LIKE THOSE!"

"AND YOU STARTED WITH NO CAPITAL AT ALL! YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MR. WINTHROP!"



"YOU KNOW, YOU'VE MADE A NEW MAN OUT OF FATHER. HE'S BEGIN TO RECOVER SOME OF HIS SPIRIT! I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW THANKFUL WE ARE FOR YOUR KINDNESS!"

"HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED WHY I'VE ACTED THIS WAY---ELIZABETH?"



"YOU'VE UTTERLY CAPTIVATED ME, MY DEAR! I LOVE YOU---AND WANT TO MARRY YOU!"

"OH... I... I..."



"AS HE GENTLY DREW ME CLOSER, I SEARCHED HIS EYES FOR HIS TRUE FEELINGS! AND WHEN I FOUND ONLY LOVE AND TENDERNESS IN HIS FACE, I COULDN'T KEEP THE SOFT CONSENT FROM SHOWING IN MY OWN EYES!"

"PLEASE SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME!"

"OH, YES, TOM---YES!"



"DEAREST--I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!"

"TOM... DARLING!"



"IT HAS ASTOUNDED INTO SPEECHLESSNESS: I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THE WEALTHY MR. WINTHROP, WHO COULD HAVE THE PICK OF ARISTOCRATIC BOSTON SOCIETY GIRLS, WOULD EVEN THINK OF MARRYING A POVERTY-STRICKEN GIRL LIKE ME!"

"WITH THE TOUCH OF HIS GENTLE LIPS ON MINE, A SURGE OF AFFECTION AND HAPPINESS FLOODED OVER ME---AND THE STRANGE POUNDING OF MY HEART TOLD ME THAT I HAD FOUND MY ONE TRUE LOVE!"

"I HAD BEEN A BIT WORRIED ABOUT GETTING MY PARENTS' APPROVAL, BUT WHEN I BROKE THE NEWS TO THEM, I BECAME EMBARRASSED AT THEIR UNDISGUISED DELIGHT!"

I ANTICIPATED YOUR CONSENT, CAPTAIN QUINCY--- AND SO I BROUGHT ALONG A BOTTLE OF RARE MADEIRA WINE TO CELEBRATE!

MADEIRA! I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BOTTLE OF THAT STUFF LEFT IN TOWN EVER SINCE THOSE PORTUGUESE CARGO SHIPS WERE WRECKED! LET'S DRINK UP--- SON-IN-LAW!

"THE BLIGGEL DAYS THAT FOLLOWED GAVE ME LITTLE TIME FOR THOUGHT! I WAS DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY JUST BEING WITH TOM---AND KNOWING THAT OUR ENGAGEMENT WAS THE TALK AND THE ENVY OF THE WHOLE TOWN!"

THERE THEY ARE! HOW DID SHE EVER CATCH HIM?... I'D BEEN TRYING TO GET MY MARY INTRODUCED TO HIM FOR MONTHS!



"ONE DAY, WHILE WAITING FOR TOM, WHO WAS INSPECTING THE CARGO ON BOARD ONE OF THE SHIPS IN THE AMAZON, MY EYE HAS CAUGHT BY A RIDICULOUS SIGHT!"

AH, THAT FIGUREHEAD LOOKS AS PRETTY AS A SEAGULL ON THE WING! HERE, WIPE THOSE WOOD SHAVINGS OFF HER, SO'S I CAN FEAST MY EYES ON HER BEAUTY!

BEAUTY! HA, HA! SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE A CHILD'S MUDPIE! THAT'S THE FUNNIEST...



LAUGH AT HER, WILL YE? WELL, NOBODY LAUGHS VERY LONG AT CAPTAIN JACK NEWCOMBE'S SHIP!

OHNH!



"YOU---YOU DIRTY RUFFIAN! HOW DARE YOU STRIKE A LADY? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TRAMP---JUST LIKE YOUR TRAMP SHIP! IF I WERE A MAN, I'D..."

AH, BUT YOU'RE NOT A MAN---LUCKILY FOR ME! BECAUSE YOU'RE AS PRETTY AS A SEAGULL ON THE WING WHEN YOU GET MAD!

"BLINDED BY THE WATER FROM THE SPONGE, I COULD SCARCELY SEE HIM COMING TOWARDS ME! AND SUDDENLY..."

AND MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE UP FOR MY SHOW OF TEMPER!



"ANGER BOILED UP FROM WITHIN ME AT THE HUMILIATION THIS DETESTABLY IMPUDENT CAPTAIN WAS MAKING ME SUFFER! A FEELING OF UTTER HATRED MADE ME LASH OUT SUDDENLY---!"

YOU'RE LOATHSOME!

"YOU---YOU OUGHT TO CRAWL BACK AMONG THE OTHER CRABS ALONG THE DOCKS! YOU'RE LUCKY THERE'S NO CONSTABLE HERE--"

NOW, NOW, MISS---IT'S NO CRIME FOR A REAL MAN TO KISS A LASSIE AS PRETTY AS YOU WHEN HE SEES HER! WHY, I'VE DONE IT HUNDREDS OF TIMES!"



"**I** REALIZED SUDDENLY WHAT AN UTTER FOOL HE WAS MAKING OF ME... COMPARING ME TO ALL THE CHEAP STREET GIRLS IN ALL THE PORTS HE'D BEEN TO! I RAN BLINDLY AWAY FROM THERE, BEFORE HE COULD HUMILIATE ME FURTHER, MY HEART BLAZING WITH FURY AND HATRED!"

HA, HA-- NO OFFENSE MEANT,
MISS! I DIDN'T MEAN TO PUT
YOU IN THE SAME CLASS WITH
HUNDREDS OF OTHERS...
YOU'RE REALLY MUCH
PRETTIER THAN
THEM! HA, HA!



"**B**UT AS I SWUNG AROUND TO CHANGE PARTNERS AND GLANCED UP TO SEE WHO MY NEW PARTNER WOULD BE FOR THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS, I SAW THE ONE MAN WHOM I NEVER WANTED TO SEE AGAIN FOR ALL OF ETERNITY! A QUICK FLASH OF ANGRY INDIGNATION ALMOST MADE ME SPUTTER WITH RAGE!"

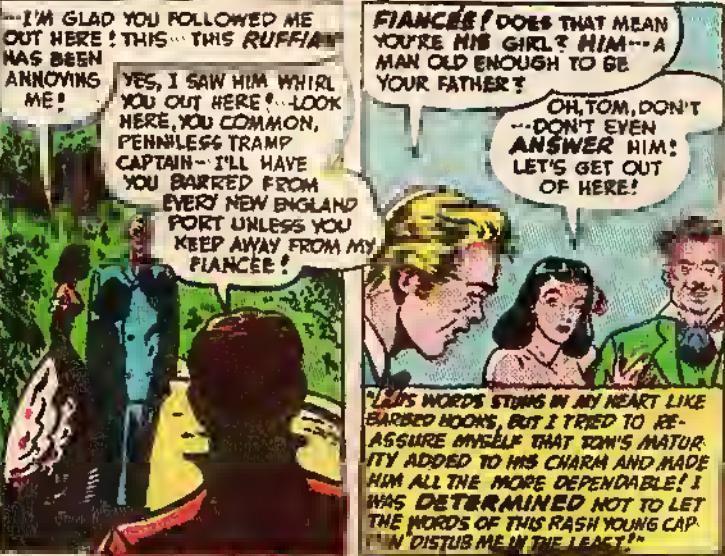
YOU! WHY, YOU
...YOU...LET
GO OF ME!

UH-UH! YOU'VE GOT
TO GO THROUGH WITH
THIS CHANGING PART-
NERS ROUTINE---AT
LEAST UNTIL I GET
YOU OUT ON THE
TERRACE!



"**I**'M GLAD YOU FOLLOWED ME OUT HERE! THIS...THIS RUFFIAN HAS BEEN ANNOVING ME!"

YES, I SAW HIM WHIRL
YOU OUT HERE!...LOOK
HERE, YOU COMMON,
PENNLESS TRAMP
CAPTAIN--I'LL HAVE
YOU BARRED FROM
EVERY NEW ENGLAND
PORT UNLESS YOU
KEEP AWAY FROM MY
FIANCÉE!



FIANCEÉ? DOES THAT MEAN
YOU'RE HIS GIRL? HIM---A
MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE
YOUR FATHER?

OH, TOM, DON'T
---DON'T EVEN
ANSWER HIM!
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

THOSE WORDS STUNG IN MY HEART LIKE
BARBED HOOKS, BUT I TRIED TO RE-
ASSURE MYSELF THAT TOM'S MATURE-
ITY ADDED TO HIS CHARM AND MADE
HIM ALL THE MORE DEPENDABLE! I
WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LET
THE WORDS OF THIS RASH YOUNG CAP-
TAIN DISTURB ME IN THE LEAST!"

"**M**Y RAGE DIDN'T SUBSIDE UNTIL NIGHTFALL, AND EVEN THEN IT TOOK ALL OF TOM'S CHARM TO MAKE ME FORGET IT! HE TOOK ME TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE I COULD REALLY RELAX AND ENJOY MYSELF WITH HIM--THE TOWN SQUARE DANCE!"

CHANGE YOUR PARTNERS,
SWING 'ER ROUND...

WE CHANGE
HERS... HURRY
BACK AND GET
ME, DARLING!



AND NOW THAT WE'RE OUT
OF THE DANCE, YOU CAN
GO AHEAD AND GET MAD--
'CAUSE YOU'RE AS PRETTY
AS A GOLDEN MOON
OVER THE ANTILLES!

YOU INTOLERABLE
INSUFFERABLE
MANIAC! YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT--
OH, TOM--!



"**T**HAT NIGHT, AS I PREPARED FOR BED--

OH, A WHISTLE! WHY, THAT MUST
BE TOM! HE'S PROBABLY TRYING
TO PROVE HE'S ROMANTIC AS
WELL AS MATURE! THE LOVABLE
DEAR, I'LL SURPRISE
HIM BY MEETING
HIM IN THE
GARDEN!



"**I**RAN OUT EAGERLY, DELIGHTED TO JOIN TOM IN THIS LITTLE ROMANTIC WHIM OF HIS! BUT AS I HEARD THE DARK FIGURE WAITING IN THE SHADOWS, I RECOILED IN STUNNED DISAPPOINTMENT!"



"I COULD TELL FROM THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES JUST BEFORE YOU LEFT THE DANCE TONIGHT THAT MY WORDS HAD HIT HOME! YOU KNOW THAT A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU COULD NEVER MARRY A CREAKY OLD LANDLUBBER LIKE HIM! YOU'D NEVER BE HAPPY--HE'S NOT YOUR KIND!"



"NO, YOU DON'T! YOUTH ATTRACTS YOUTH, LIKE THE MOON DRAWING THE TIDE! YOU MAY THINK YOU HATE ME, BUT YOU'RE *MY* KIND--AND WHEN I LEARNED YOU WERE CAPTAIN JOSEPH QUINCY'S DAUGHTER, I KNEW YOU WERE BORN TO BE THE WIFE OF A CAPTAIN, WITH THE SWELL OF THE SEA UNDER YOUR FEET AND THE STARS IN YOUR EYES!"



"**I** TRIED TO THINK OF SOME ANGRY ANSWERS, BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, HE WAS DRAWING ME CLOSER TO HIM--AND I WAS HELPLESS IN THOSE STRONG ARMS!"

WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER, LIKE THE SAIL IS MADE FOR THE WIND! NEITHER OF US CAN FIGHT AGAINST IT!



"ELIZABETH... I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU... WILD ABOUT YOU!"

"OHHH!"

"**I**HAD NEITHER THE STRENGTH NOR THE WILL TO RESIST HIS KISS, AND WHILE HIS LIPS URGENTLY SOUGHT MY CHEEKS AND LIPS, STRANGE LITTLE TREMORS RAN DOWN MY SPINE! I FOUND MYSELF WILDLY KISSING HIM BACK---"

"**F**INALLY, BREATHLESS AND CONFUSED, I BROKE OUT OF HIS EMBRACE, MY HEART WHISPERING THAT THIS, THIS, WAS TRUE LOVE! I BACKED SLOWLY AWAY, GAZING WONDERINGLY AT THIS MAN WHOSE KISSES HAD KINDLED ME TO ECSTASY!"

"I--I CAN'T STAY... JACK!"



"**T**HAT NIGHT WAS A SLEEPLESS ONE, SPENT IN AN AGONY OF INDECISION! I WAS TORN BY THE CONFLICT IN MY HEART BETWEEN THIS STRANGE CAPTAIN WHO HAD INFILTRATED ME SO, AND TOM, WHO WAS TENDER AND GOOD, AND WHOM I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT!"



"EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, BEFORE I HAD MADE UP MY MIND, TOM CALLED!"

DARLING, I'VE MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS! WE'LL GET MARRIED IN TWO WEEKS, AND THEN GO TO THE BARBADOS FOR OUR HONEYMOON! HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU? ...BUT BEFORE YOU ANSWER, HOW ABOUT A "GOOD-MORNING" KISS?

TOM,
I—I...



"AND THEN MY HEART TOLD ME WHAT MY MIND HAD BEEN AFRAID TO SAY---AFTER JACK'S KISSES LAST NIGHT, I KNEW I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE ANY OTHER MAN KISS ME ---EVER!"

BUT DARLING, WHY ARE YOU TURNING ASIDE? WHAT'S WRONG?

I...I CAN'T TELL YOU, TOM! BUT PLEASE DON'T TRY TO KISS ME!

WELL, IF SHE CAN'T TELL YOU, I CAN!



I WAITED OUTSIDE UNTIL I SAW YOU COME IN TO SEE ELIZABETH---I FIGURED WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A SHOWDOWN RIGHT NOW! SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU, AND SO SHE COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT SHE'S IN LOVE WITH ME, AND THAT SHE COULD NEVER BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE WHO'S MORE THAN TWICE HER AGE---LIKE YOU!

WHY,
YOU...!
TELL HIM
HE'S A DIRTY
LIAR, ELIZABETH!

"I HADN'T
WANTED IT TO
BE THIS WAY
...I HADN'T
WANTED TOM TO
BE HUMILIATED
LIKE THIS!
UNABLE TO
SPEAK THE
HOUNDING
WORDS, I WALKED
OVER TO JACK
AND PUT MY
ARMS AROUND
HIM!"

SO, NOW I SEE IT ALL! A THIEVING, SNEAKING TRAMP CAPTAIN STEALS MY GIRL BEHIND MY BACK! NO MAN CAN PLAY THOMAS WINTHROP FOR A FOOL---AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU YET!



"DISTRESSED AT THE HURT TOM HAD SUFFERED, I WATCHED HIM WALK OUT OF MY LIFE! AND THEN..."

WE HEARD IT ALL FROM THE NEXT ROOM---AND LET ME TELL YOU, OUR DAUGHTER WILL NEVER BE YOURS! YOU CAN'T OFFER HER ANY SECURITY---AND SHE'S GOING TO MARRY WINTHROP, WHO CAN!

WELL SEE
ABOUT THAT!
I'LL BE BACK
HERE TOMORROW
AT NOON---AND
IF ELIZABETH
REALLY LOVES
ME, SHE'LL LEAVE
WITH ME THEN!

YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS CRAZY CHANGE OF HEART! THINK OF HOW MUCH TOM HAS DONE FOR US! THINK OF THE MILLIONS HE CAN OFFER YOU, COMPARED WITH THE PITTANCE A CAPTAIN OF A SMALL SHIP GETS! ASK ME ABOUT THE INSECURITIES AND THE HEARTBREAK A CAPTAIN'S WIFE GOES THROUGH!

I... I'D RATHER HAVE LOVE THAN WEALTH! AND SINCE JACK IS THE ONLY MAN I'LL EVER LOVE, I--I HAVE TO GO WITH HIM!



"**I** AROKE THE NEXT MORNING, MY HEART BEATING HIGH WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF MY COMING ELOPEMENT! AND WHEN JACK CALLED AT NOON, I WAS READY!"

GET IN, DARLIN'! THESE HORSES ARE MIGHTY SPIRITED AND RARIN' TO GO ...JUST LIKE ME!

PUT ONE FOOT IN THAT CARRIAGE, AND YOU'LL BE NO MORE DAUGHTER OF MINE! I'LL NEVER GIVE MY CONSENT TO A MARRIAGE WITH A MAN WHOLL NEVER SUPPORT YOU PROPERLY!



DON'T PUT ON AN INNOCENT ACT, YOU BRIGAND! I SUSPECTED YOU FOR DAYS, AND WHEN THE CONSTABLE AND I BROKE INTO YOUR ROOM THIS MORNING, WE FOUND THE LOG BOOKS OF SOME OF THE WRECKED SHIPS AND ALSO PART OF THE SHIPMENT OF JEWELRY THAT THE CRISTOBAL WAS CARRYING BEFORE SHE WENT DOWN!

COME ALONG PEACEFUL, NOW, CAPTAIN NEWCOMBE!



"**I** WAS BEYOND CARING WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, AS LONG AS JACK GOT AWAY! BUT BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I FELT MYSELF BEING SNATCHED UP BY A POWERFUL ARM AND SWEEPED ALONG!"

I'LL DRIVE OFF... BUT NOT WITHOUT YOU!



"**I** WAS HORROR-STRICKEN AT THE EVIDENCE THAT POINTED TO JACK... AND THAT WOULD SURELY CONVICT AND HANG HIM! I KNEW THAT WHEN THE TOWNS-PEOPLE HEARD THE NEWS, ALL THOSE WHO HAD BEEN RUINED BY THE CARGO PLUNDERING WOULD WANT TO HANG HIM EVEN WITHOUT A TRIAL!"



"**HURRY, YOU FOOL! GO AFTER THEM!**"

"**I'VE GOT SOME MEN WAITIN' AROUND THE CORNER... WE'LL GET 'EM!**"

"**BUT JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO GET INTO THE CARRIAGE, PREPARED TO SACRIFICE FAMILY AND WEALTH FOR LOVE, I WAS STARTLED BY A SHOUT!**"

STOP! JACK NEWCOMBE, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR BEIN' THE HEAD OF THE GANG THAT'S BEEN WRECKIN' SHIPS IN THESE PARTS AN' STEALIN' THEIR CARGOES!



OWWW!

JACK... DRIVE OFF! HURRY!

CRACK!



PUT ME DOWN! I...I WANTED YOU TO ESCAPE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO WITH YOU...OR MARRY YOU...YOU THIEVING PLUNDERER!

I MAY BE A KIDNAPPER NOW, BUT I'M NOT ONE OF THE WRECKERS! I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND...THEY'D HAVE ARRESTED YOU FOR HELPING ME ESCAPE! BUT WITH YOU AT MY SIDE, I SWEAR I'LL CLEAR MYSELF!

"IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, WE WERE GOING TOO FAST FOR ME TO JUMP OFF THE CARRIAGE! AND AS A STORM STARTED TO BREAK OVER OUR HEADS, I HUDDLED MISERABLY ON THE SEAT, BITTERLY REGRETTING THE DAY I'D SET EYES ON THE MAN I WAS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH!"



"AFTER A FURIOUS 15 MILE CHASE, THE RIDERS WERE STILL CLOSE BEHIND US! AND WHEN WE GOT TO THE GLOUCESTER DOCKS..."

AHOY, ON BOARD! START CASTING OFF AS SOON AS I GRAB THE LADDER!

IT'S THE CAP'N!
...AYE,
AYE,
SIR!

THEY GOT ON BOARD...WE MISSED 'EM!

THE CRAZY FOOLS! IT'S SUICIDE, SETTING SAIL IN THE TEETH OF THIS STORM! IT'LL BE A FULL-BLOWN GALE IN NO TIME!

I LOCKED THE GIRL IN YOUR CABIN, LIKE YOU TOLD ME, CAP'N! BUT WE CAN'T PUT OUT IN THIS GALE...WE'LL BE RIPPED TO PIECES!

I'D RATHER RISK THAT THAN RISK PUTTING MY NECK IN A NOOSE! WE'LL HAVE TO BUCK THE WIND PAST MARBLEHEAD AND INTO BOSTON! AFTER WE UNLOAD OUR CARGO THERE, I'LL HAVE TO CLEAR MYSELF OF THE CHARGES AGAINST ME!



LEATER, BACK IN MARBLEHEAD...

WE JUST SIGHTED A SHIP TRYIN' TO BEAT ITS WAY PAST MARBLEHEAD IN HEAVY SEAS! SHE'LL PASS RIGHT BY ANDREWS REEF! WHAT'LL WE DO---THE GALE'S PRETTY BAD!

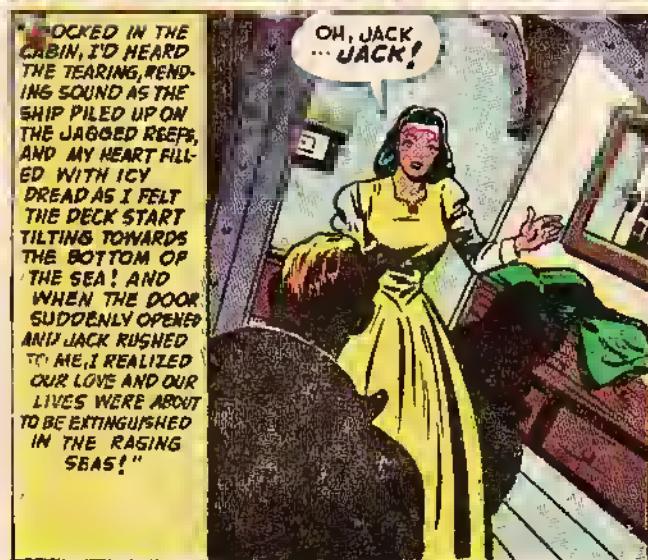
THE WORSE THE STORM, THE EASIER IT'LL BE FOR YOU, IDIOT! CALL OUT THE MEN AND GO GET IT! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO BY NOW!



THERE'S THE LIGHT! SOON AS WE OPEN THE GLASS COVERIN', THIS WIND'LL BLOW 'ER RIGHT OUT!

YEAH, AND THE OTHER BOY'SLL LIGHT UP THAT FAKE BEACON...GUIDING THAT SHIP RIGHT ONTO THE REEFS!





...GASP...MADE IT!
ELIZABETH...WE'RE
SAFE, DARLING!
WAKE UP!

"I HEARD JACK'S VOICE CALLING ME AS IF FROM
A GREAT DISTANCE AWAY, AND SLOWLY I BEGAN
REMEMBERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED. BUT AS I
OPENED MY EYES...."

JACK---WHERE ARE
WE? AND WHAT ARE
THOSE LIGHTS?

LIGHTS? WHERE...?
OH, OH, THOSE MUST BE
CARGO PILLAGERS! AND
NOW THAT YOU'VE REVIVED,
I'M GOING OFF AFTER
THOSE VULTURES!

THEY'RE THE
GANG THAT'S
BEEN WRECK-
ING SHIPS
WITH FALSE
BEACONS...
AND LOOTING
THEM!

"PANIC SEIZED ME—I COULDN'T BEAR
TO LOSE JACK NOW THAT OUR LIVES HAD
BEEN WRESTED FROM THE SEA! I REAL-
IZED SUDDENLY THAT I COULDN'T GO ON
LIVING IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HIM!"

JACK---
DON'T GO!
PLEASE!

BUT I'VE GOT TO!
THIS IS MY CHANCE
TO CLEAR MYSELF AND
GET EVIDENCE AGAINST
THE REAL RAIDERS!
YOU JUST STAY HERE...
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON
AS I'VE POLISHED THEM
OFF!

THAT SHIP SURE
HAD HER HOLD
FULL OF CARGO...!

YES,
MY
SHIP
SURE
DID!

AND HERE'S PART
PAYMENT FOR PUTTING
YOUR BLOODY HOOKS
INTO MY CARGO, YOU
MURDERING
SCAVENGER!

I'LL
GIT
YUH...!

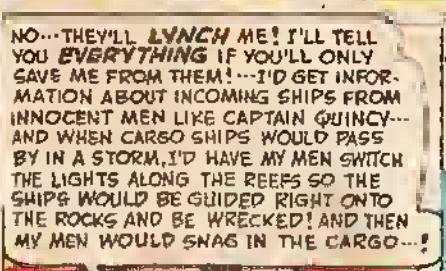
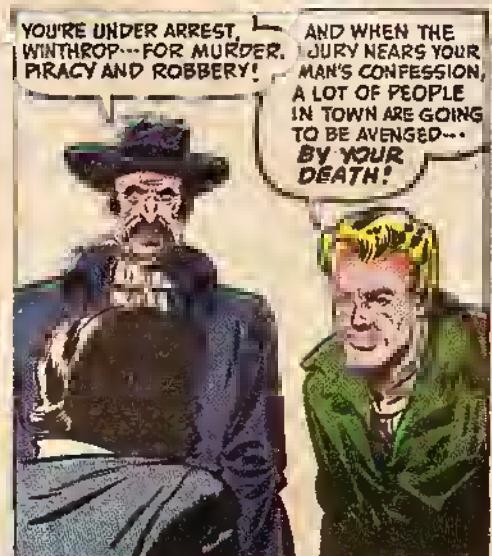
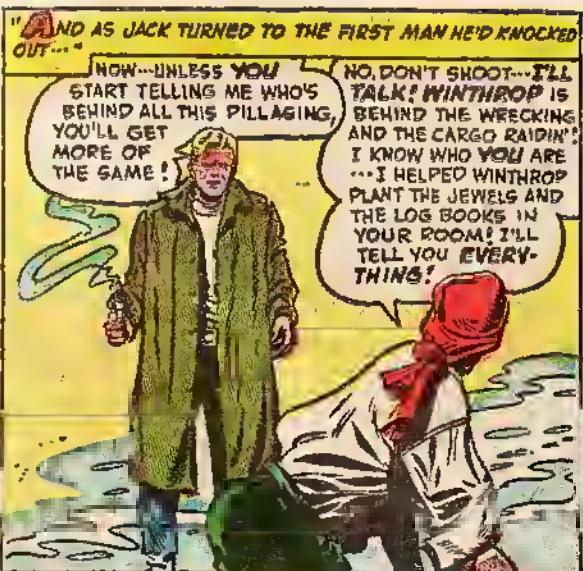
OOFF!

MAYBE YOU CAN SPEAR
BALES OF CARGO WITH
THAT SHARK-STICKER,
BUT I'VE GOT MORE
LIFE THAN A BALE!

"UNABLE TO BEAR JACK'S ABSENCE, HOPING THAT I'D
BE ABLE TO HELP HIM IN SOME WAY, I MANAGED TO MAKE
MY WAY TO THE SPOT WHERE HE WAS BATTLING THE
MARAUDERS! I WAS TREMBLING WITH FEAR FOR HIS
SAFETY, AND THEN..."

MAYBE NOW YOU'LL KNOW
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO
CRACK UP ON THE
ROCKS!

JACK, LOOK
OUT! THERE'S
ANOTHER
MAN COMING!



COURTSHIP through the AGES



From prehistoric ages to the present, men have wooed and won the women of their choice! But their methods have certainly been VARIED--as this tour of

COURTSHIP through the AGES will show!

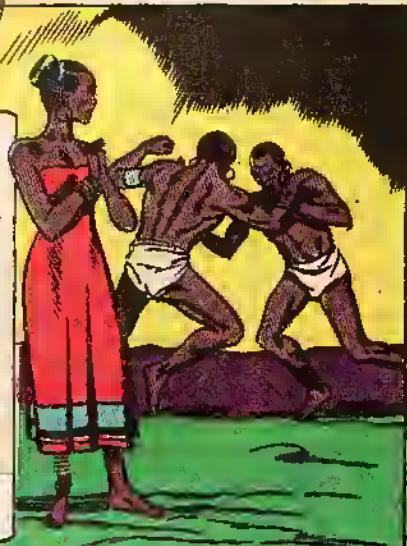
COURTSHIP BY CAPTURE
was virtually the only kind known to the primitive cave-man!

The cave-girl became the man's property if he could seize her and carry her away from her tribe!

The girl had no voice in the matter --unless she wandered away from protection for the sole purpose of being carried off!



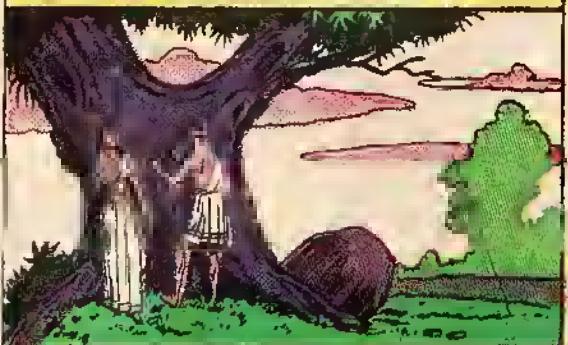
Later on, suitors fought each other, the STRONGER winning the bride! Even today women still worship feats of strength and courage--following the age-old principle that no man may have a wife unless he proves he can protect her!



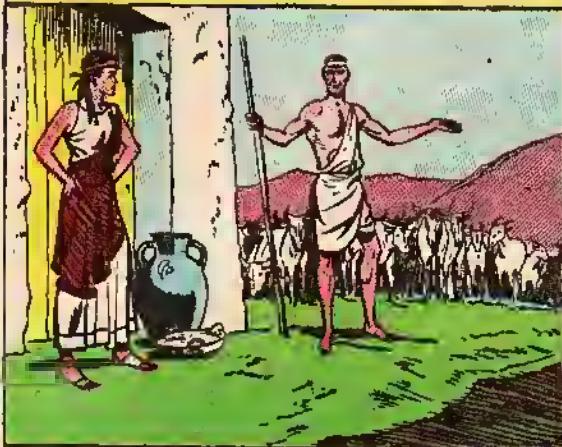
The first crude and elementary kind of romance probably had its origin in some such incident as a girl stealing away from her tribe at night to join a youth with whom she had been forbidden marriage! TENDERNESS had come of age!



The ancient Greeks were the originators of the age-old custom of lovers carving their initials on trees! The young girl of today, whose heart throbs with love and anticipation when her boy-friend carves a heart on a tree, is experiencing the same tingling emotions a Greek maiden felt 2,000 years ago!



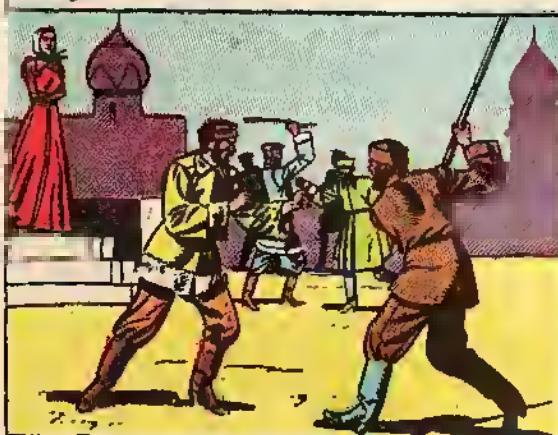
In Homer's time, the bridegroom wooed the bride with rich gifts! In those days, it was hard for a girl to resist a hundred heifers and a thousand goats, such as ONE man offered as a nuptial present!



Among many savage tribes, it was thought that a man could CHARM a woman to love him by whirling a string attached to a piece of wood with a hole in it, thereby producing a peculiar humming noise! The SERENADE may well have grown out of this instrument and its reputation for charming the ladies!



In medieval Russia, the Muscovites invaded the bride's home and the bridegroom's party carried off the lady! The consent of the parents was sought AFTERWARDS!



Among the Polynesians in the South Sea Islands, a boy and a girl will confess their love for each other by exchanging flowers and wearing them behind their ears!



The habit of KISSING is strange to the Polynesians, the Laplanders and the Eskimos! THEY show affection and love by RUBBING NOSES!



But the KISS is certainly NOT strange to the young people who go courting today! And THEY would say the Eskimos DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MISSING!





READERS' ROMANCES

Greetings, all of you readers of "Romantic Adventures!"

It's nice getting together with you again, hearing your heart problems and doing our level best to be of help to you. Yes, we hear many such problems—and here's a confession of our own! Frequently we work them into our stories, since we feel that there's no better way to point out the right path than by showing dramatized versions of what might have happened to you, your

sister or the girl next door. And the very thing that makes our stories true-to-life, thus, is the actual truth that many of them may contain. But we can't make a story out of everyone's love problem, obviously, so we try to do the next best thing by dealing with such problems directly—either by personal letter or reply through these columns. Many of you have gotten such letters from us—so now let's go with a few of our direct replies!

"Dear Editors of Romantic Adventures:

I am a girl of school age, and have been having a lot of trouble because my boyfriend is so narrow-minded. What happened was that he had to go to Arkansas for a visit, and since I was lonely meanwhile, I went out with another boy, just for company. My real boyfriend has returned, and now will hardly talk to me, because he thinks I care for the other fellow. I don't, and I'm heart-broken. What should I do?

—B. H. Kansas."

We don't blame you for what you did, B.H.—you were lonely, and your boyfriend should understand this. The fact that you've written to us in your trouble shows whom you really care for, so why not show our answer in this column to your beau?

"Dear Editors:

Please help me if you can, because I've been going through a lot of sorrow. My family's poor, and for some years I've been a clerk in a store. I don't make much, and don't get to meet many boys. But I did meet one a couple of months ago, and have gotten to love him very much. Last Saturday was our first big date and he took me to a formal dance. I wore my best dress, but I guess it wasn't good enough, because he acted ashamed of me and danced with me as little as he could. He used to call me every day, but he hasn't phoned since, and I'm afraid I've lost him. How can I get him back?

—R. L. T., New York City."

Sorry, R. L. T., but we won't tell you how to get him back—because he doesn't deserve you! If such unimportant things as clothes mean more to him than you do, he can have no real love for you and is worthless. We doubt that you could really care for a boy like this anyway—it's just a lack of other male company that's made you think you love him. There'll be other men along for a sweet girl like you—and it won't be your clothes they're interested in!

"To the Editors of Romantic Adventures:

I hope you don't mind getting a letter from a boy occasionally, because we have our love problems too! This is mine. While at school, I fell in love with the prettiest girl in the class, but was too shy to ever tell her so. It wasn't until several years later that I got up the nerve, and it worked, because we're now engaged. But every time we're out in company, she flirts with other men and forgets I'm alive. Then, when we're alone, she's loving. I admit I'm jealous, and I can't stand much more of this change-about stuff. Shall I break off—or what?

—L. E., Jr., Chicago, Ill."

No, L. E.—don't break off with her! If she was the prettiest girl in your class, she was popular, and she'd never have gotten herself engaged to you if she didn't love you. But her earlier experiences have probably turned her head—she's used to considerable male attention, and is consequently flirtatious. It's completely innocent, but it calls for a show of firmness on your part. You've got to put your foot down, and tell her you won't stand for being slighted. You'll find she cares enough for you to change—depend on it!

We've gotten countless more letters from you readers, of course, and are answering the bulk of them through personal mailed replies. Some, however, are being saved for discussion in these columns. We ask your indulgence if it takes time to get around to your letter—it's only the pressure of heavy correspondence which prevents

speedier answers. But you'll get them, depend on it! Meanwhile, we all have our love problems, so don't hesitate to send in yours. And tell us what you think of "Romantic Adventures," please—your reaction to our magazine, as expressed in your letters, will help us to bring you just the sort of stories you want!

China DOLL

"LAUREL, you . . . you're exquisite!"

Like a delicate figurine, beautiful but fragile!" Randy touched her wrist lightly as he spoke. When he finished, he leaned over and kissed her fleeting-ly on the forehead.

"Thank you, Randy." Laurel's voice was sweet, concealing the rising impatience within her. "He thinks I'm delicate just because I'm small," she thought. "Men are so stupid!"

As she followed Randy into the sail-boat, her thoughts continued full of vexation. "I'm a woman," she protest-ed to herself, "but he treats me as though I were a *china doll!* And there isn't anything I can do about it!"

Randy hustled about, getting cush-ions and a back rest for Laurel's com-fort. "Here, darling," he said, with an-other of those fleeting butterfly-wing kisses. "Now, you just lean back and look beautiful while I sail us across the bay."

Laurel sighed inaudibly and settled back. The sailboat eased out into the bay like a huge bird skimming across the water. A small anxious frown set-tled on Laurel's forebead. "Randy, do you want me to help?" she asked.

"What could you do, darling?" he laughed. "Just keep right on looking beautiful . . . that's all I ask!"

For a while, they sailed in silence, en-joying the sky and water. Then Laurel spoke again. "That's a funny-looking cloud, Randy," she said. "Do you think it might storm?"

"Oh, maybe a little bit," he smiled. She could tell he was trying not to frighten her. "If it does, don't worry, angel, I . . ."

"Oh, I'm not wor . . ." Laurel's sen-tence was drowned in the sudden elap of thunder. She had no chance to speak as the wind came up, whipping the sails with sharp violence. Randy began to work furiously, pulling fiercely at the ropes. So intense was he, that he did not see . . . did not see . . .

"Randy! Darling! Look out!" Laur-el's voice, fighting the wind, lost out. It was too late. As the loose boom swung around, it battered the side of Randy's head mercilessly and he dropped to the deck, unconscious.

"So I'm small and helpless, am I? A china doll, am I?" Laurel balanced herself carefully in the pitching boat. "We'll soon see, darling!"

Twenty minutes later, Randy open-ed his eyes and beheld a vision. Not an ethereal vision. Far from it. This was a very earthly vision, rain-soaked, dishevelled and tattered.

"Laurel! What's happened?" he gasped, struggling to his feet.

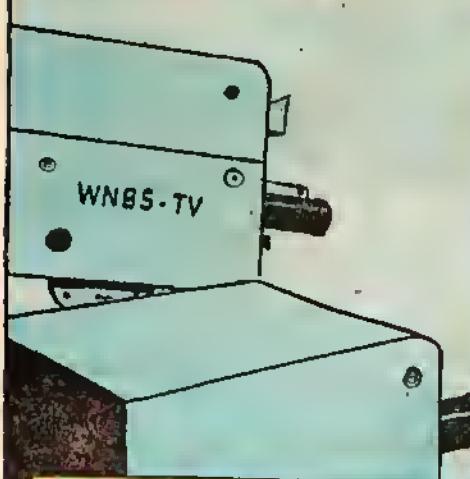
"I brought the boat in . . . alone! And you'll have to excuse my torn dress! I needed it to tie up your wounds!"

Randy's hand went to his forehead. There it was, a neat, well-made band-age. For the first time, it was Randy who sounded helpless and and at a loss for words to express his complete amazement.

"By yourself?" he wondered. Then his arms went around her, tightly.

Laurel looked up into Randy's eyes and smiled. "You can do better than that," she whispered. "I won't break. I'm not a china doll . . . darling!"

CUPID plays the PUPPET



PUPPETS have no emotions, of course .. THEY can never feel the delights and torments of being in love! But when a lonely girl controls the puppet strings and puts all the yearning of her lovesick heart into her marionettes, they may repay her by taking on an emotional life of their own, and by helping her regain her lost love ... BY PLAYING CUPID!

"I HAD BEEN ENTRANCED WITH PUPPETS AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, AND USED TO PUT ON PERFORMANCES FOR MY FRIENDS EVEN WHEN I WAS A CHILD! AND THEN, WITH THE FANTASTIC GROWTH OF TELEVISION, I MADE MY WAY TO NEW YORK -- AND BECAME A SUCCESS ALMOST OVERNIGHT! MY PUPPET SHOWS WERE SEEN BY COUNTLESS CHILDREN!"

AND NOW, MY FAIR BEAUTY, I GO OFF
TO BATTLE SIR MORDRED, THE BLACK
KNIGHT, FOR YOUR LOVELY HAND!



"MY SUCCESS WAS SHARED BY PHIL COBURN, WHO WROTE THE STORIES WHICH MY PUPPETS ACTED OUT! IT HAD BEEN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR BOTH OF US, AND WE WERE COUNTING THE WEEKS UNTIL WE COULD AFFORD TO GET MARRIED! THEN, ONE DAY..."

THAT DRAGON STORY YOU WELL, I DIDN'T
WROTE WAS WONDERFUL, THINK IT WAS SO
DARLING! A FEW MORE WONDERFUL!
LIKE THAT AND THEY'RE MATTER OF FACT,
BOUND TO RENEW OUR I'VE BEEN THINKING
CONTRACT--AND WE OF CHANGING THE
WON'T HAVE TO KEEP WHOLE STYLE OF
POWERS--OUR MARRIAGE!

Sylvia!



BUT, PHIL, WE CAN'T CHANGE! WE'D BE ENDANGERING EVERYTHING! OUR SHOWS ARE TERRIFIC AS THEY ARE!

BUT DON'T YOU SEE, SYLVIA? -- THIS STUFF WE'VE BEEN FEEDING THE KIDS ABOUT DRAGONS AND KNIGHTS IS ALL SO ARTIFICIAL! IT'S NO GOOD FOR THEM -- IT DOESN'T PREPARE THEM FOR REAL LIFE!

DON'T FORGET THAT KIDS ARE VERY IMITATIVE -- AND WE'D DO THEM A LOT OF GOOD IF OUR PUPPETS WERE TO SHOW REAL GENUINE EMOTION AND LOVE FOR EACH OTHER, INSTEAD OF THAT PHONEY JUNK ABOUT DRAGONS! IF THEY WATCH REAL LOVE ON THEIR TELEVISION SCREENS DAY AFTER DAY, THEY'LL BE READY FOR IT THAT MUCH SOONER WHEN THEY GROW UP!



"I KNEW PHIL MEANT EVERY WORD -- AND A COLD PREMONITION OF TROUBLE TO COME SHOOK ME! I WAS CERTAIN THAT HIS IDEAS WOULD RUIN OUR SHOWS -- AND MAKE US THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY --- AND I HAD NO INTENTION OF EVER LOSING MY HARD-WON SUCCESS!"

NONSENSE, PHIL! KIDS WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND REAL LOVE! SO COME ON, WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO REALITY OURSELVES --- YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP ON PRACTICING HANDLING THESE PUPPETS IF YOU'RE EVER TO TAKE OVER WHEN I'M SICK!

OKAY, LET'S HAVE THAT FIRE-EATING DRAGON OF YOURS!

"PROUDLY I WATCHED THE COMPLETE MASTERY WITH WHICH PHIL HANDLED THE PUPPETS, AFTER ONLY A FEW LESSONS! I KNEW THAT WITH OUR TALENT -- AND OUR LOVE --- NOTHING COULD STOP US!"

WHY, YOU'RE PHENOMENAL, LITTLE DOLLS MEAN DARLING! IN A FEW WEEKS, A LOT TO ME -- AS YOU'VE LEARNED TO OPERATE THEM PERFECTLY! YOU'LL SEE WHEN I BRING MY NEXT SCRIPT!



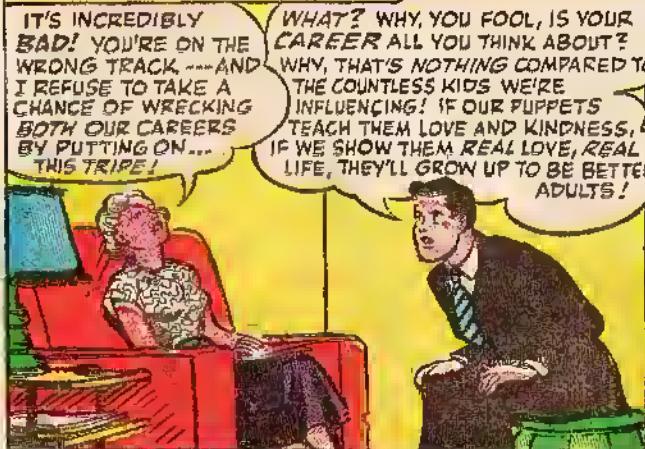
"THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN I READ PHIL'S NEW SCRIPT, MY HEART SANK! FOR HERE WERE HIS CRAZY IDEAS ABOUT REALISM, AND THEY'D RUIN US! I FELT MY ANGER RISING AT HIS STUBBORN BULL-HEADEDNESS!"

IT'S INCREDIBLY BAD! YOU'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK --- AND I REFUSE TO TAKE A CHANCE OF WRECKING BOTH OUR CAREERS BY PUTTING ON... THIS TRIPES!

WHAT? WHY, YOU FOOL, IS YOUR CAREER ALL YOU THINK ABOUT? WHY, THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE COUNTLESS KIDS WE'RE INFLUENCING! IF OUR PUPPETS TEACH THEM LOVE AND KINDNESS, IF WE SHOW THEM REAL LOVE, REAL LIFE, THEY'LL GROW UP TO BE BETTER ADULTS!

YOU'RE THE IDIOT! WHY, YOU ... YOU'VE NEVER GROWN UP! IF YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF HUMAN NATURE -- YOU DON'T FACE REALITY, PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO FACE REALITY! THEY'RE MUCH HAPPIER LIVING IN A MAKE-BELIEVE WORLD!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REAL EMOTIONS! THE LOVE YOU SAID YOU FELT FOR ME IS PROBABLY A MAKE-BELIEVE LOVE! AND I'M GLAD I FOUND OUT WHAT YOU'RE LIKE BEFORE I MARRIED YOU -- BECAUSE I WOULDN'T WANNA MAKE-BELIEVE WIFE!



AND I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TO YOUR MAKE-BELIEVE WORLD --- WHILE I ACCEPT THAT JOB ON THE WEST COAST, WHERE THEY TAKE THEIR PUPPETS SERIOUSLY!
YOU CAN JUST SIT HERE UNTIL SIR GALAHAD HIMSELF KILLS A DRAGON FOR YOU AND RIDES ON HIS WHITE HORSE TO MARRY YOU!

OH...NO, NO...

"BUT IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, WITHOUT PHIL'S SPARKLING SCRIPTS TO INFUSE LIFE INTO MY PUPPETS -- "

I'M SORRY, MISS ROGERS, BUT IF YOUR PROGRAMS DON'T START IMPROVING, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RENEW YOUR CONTRACT! OUR SURVEYS SHOW THAT YOUR AUDIENCE HAS FALLEN OFF ALARMINGLY!

"HIS BITTER WORDS BURNED INTO MY HEART, LEAVING ONLY THE COLD ASHES OF GRIEF AND DESOLATION! HE WAS THE ONLY ONE I'D EVER LOVED -- BUT I STILL HAD MY PRIDE! TRUE, I'D LOST OUT ON ROMANCE -- BUT THERE WAS STILL SUCCESS TO ACHIEVE! THAT WOULD PROVE HIM WRONG!"

"THE NEXT DAY, AT MY BROTHER'S HOME, I WATCHED MY LITTLE NEPHEW AT PLAY..."

THERE! I JUST STABBED THE DRAGON, JUST LIKE AUNTIE SYLVIA'S PUPPET DID! I KILLED HIM DEAD!

I--I WONDER IF PHIL WAS RIGHT? CHILDREN DO IMITATE, AND THEY MIGHT AS WELL IMITATE REAL LIFE, REAL VALUES, LIKE ... LOVE AND AFFECTION! OH, HOW WRONG I WAS WITH PHIL!

"WITH THE SUDDEN FLASH OF INSIGHT THAT PHIL HAD BEEN RIGHT ALL ALONG, I WAS OVERCOME WITH PENITENCE! PRIDE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING NOW, IN THE FACE OF MY HUNGRY YEARNING TO ASK HIS FORGIVENESS, AND REGAIN HIS LOVE! BUT WHEN I PHONED HIM..."

OH, PHIL, DARLING! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR ALL THE THINGS I SAID! I SEE NOW...

BEING SORRY ISN'T ENOUGH, SYLVIA! -- IT DOESN'T MAKE THINGS MAGICALLY ALL RIGHT AGAIN! YOU'RE STILL A CHILD --- AND I STILL WANT AN ADULT WIFE, WITH AN ADULT'S EMOTIONS!

-- ? CLICK! ?

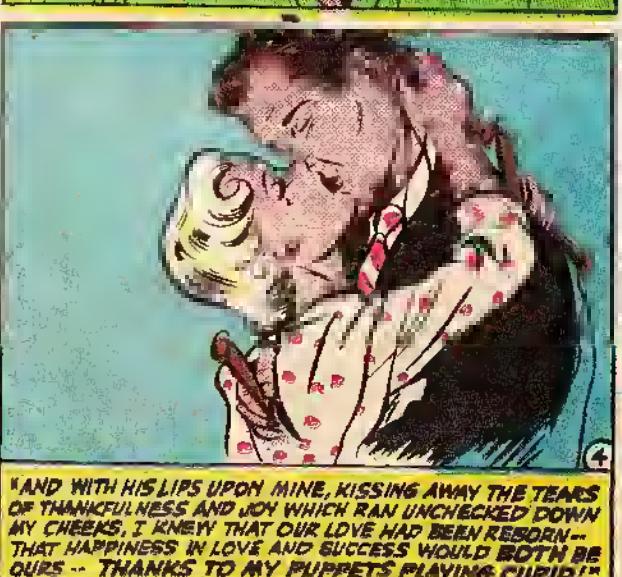
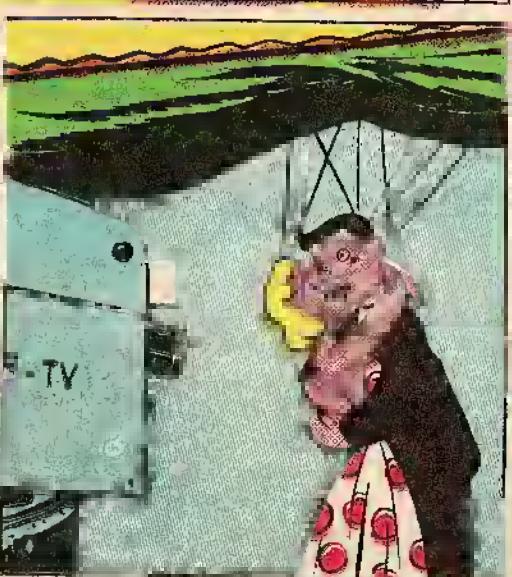
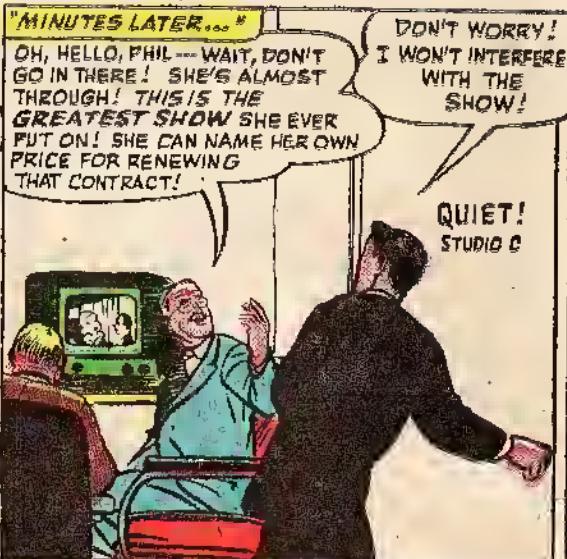
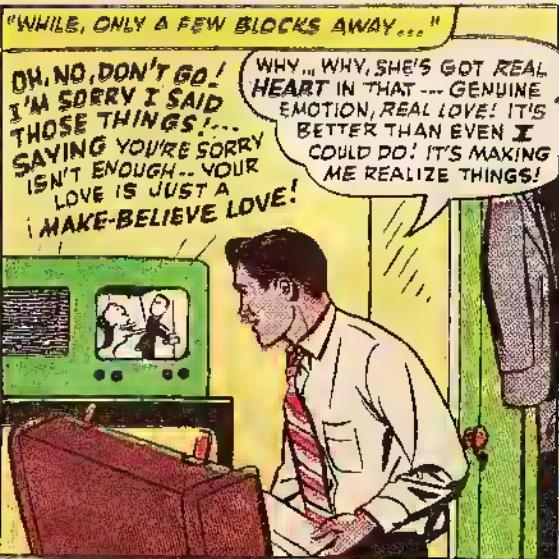
"THE ALREADY-SHATTERED FRAGMENTS OF MY HEART BROKE INTO EVEN SMALLER PIECES, BEYOND ANY HOPE OF REPAIR! I KNEW THEN THAT PHIL WAS LOST TO ME FOREVER -- AND THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO!"

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I'LL NEVER WIN HIM BACK! THIS WILL BE THE LAST PUPPET SHOW I EVER DO, BUT AT LEAST I CAN MAKE IT A MONUMENT TO MY LOVE FOR PHIL -- BY WRITING A SCRIPT THAT'S GOT REAL HEART TO IT, REAL EMOTION --- AND REAL LOVE!

"AS THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO PUT THE SHOW ON, I FOUND MYSELF HOPING FERVENTLY THAT PHIL WOULD BE WATCHING IT ON HIS TELEVISION SET! I KNEW THAT IT COULDN'T CHANGE THINGS, THAT HE WOULD STILL LEAVE FOR THE COAST --- BUT AT LEAST I WANTED HIM TO KNOW HOW MUCH I STILL LOVED HIM!"

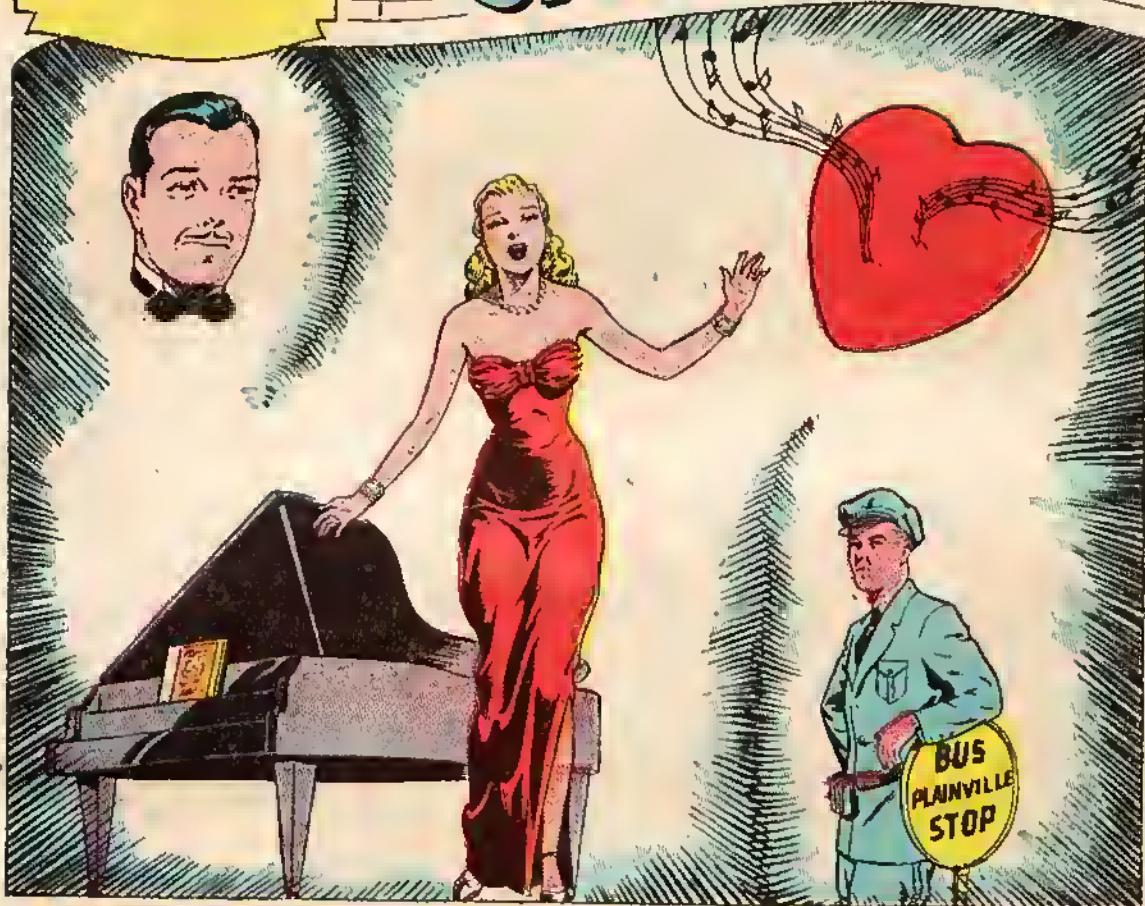
THREE SECONDS -- HELLO, BOYS AND GIRLS, THIS IS TWO SECONDS... YOUR PUPPET STORY TELLER AGAIN! YOU'RE ON!

Different! Instead of dragons and knights, you'll see a girl who was in love with a boy, and who made a terrible mistake because she thought success was more important than real love!



"I THOUGHT THE WORLD OWNED ME FAME...AND I SET OUT TO REMIND IT OF THE DEBT! BUT WHEN I TRIED TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE WITH MUSIC, I WAS ALMOST CONSUMED IN THE BLAZE I KINDLED--FOR I REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THE..."

SONG OF MY HEART



"I HATED THE DRABNESS OF MY JOB AS DRY GOODS CLERK IN PLAINVILLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE--I FELT DULL AS A PEBBLE AMID THE BOLTS OF CLOTH! FATE HAD BEEN CRUEL TO ME, FOR I KNEW THAT I, CHUCK WALKER'S DAUGHTER, SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR A FAR MORE GLAMOROUS LIFE!"



"THE GREAT CHUCK WALKER! THE BEST SONG AND DANCE MAN THERE EVER WAS! AUDIENCES LOVED HIM..."



"MY HUMDRUM JOB WAS FORGOTTEN! I WAS DEEP IN TENDER AND GLORIOUS MEMORIES OF THE PAST--"

DADDY, I LOVE YOU! YOU WERE SENSATIONAL!

I'M GOING TO BE MORE SENSATIONAL WHEN YOU COME INTO THE ACT WITH ME, HONEY!

"THIS PROMISE WAS MAGIC TO ME, THRILLED ME TO THE CORE OF MY BEING! SOON HE WAS COACHING ME TO PLAY THE PIANO-- AND TO SING AND DANCE WITH HIM!"

WHAT A FAMILY WE MAKE--THE BEST IN VAUDEVILLE!



"HUMILIATION AND RAGE BURNED THROUGH ME--I KNEW I WAS TOO GOOD FOR THIS TWO-BIT JOB! I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE---AND ONE DAY A PLAN BEGAN FORMING IN MY MIND!"

IT'LL MEAN SKIMPING ON CLOTHES AND MEALS, BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT TO GET OUT OF THIS DRUDGERY--AND UP ON TOP, WHERE I OUGHT TO BE!

"IMMEDIATELY, I STARTED PUTTING MY PLAN INTO EFFECT! EACH THURSDAY NIGHT, I'D CATCH THE BUS TO CROSSVILLE ---AND THERE WAS ALWAYS THE SAME DRIVER..."



WHITEY'S WHAT PEOPLE CALL ME! YOU LIVE HERE,

HERE--UNFORTUNATELY! I'M STUDYING MUSIC IN CROSSVILLE--IT'S A STEPPING-STONE TO NEW YORK!



MUSIC--NEW YORK--SOUNDS LIKE A BIG ORDER FOR A LITTLE GIRL! ME, I LIKE SMALL TOWNS, WHERE EVERYONE'S EASY-GOING!

WELL, I MAY BE LITTLE, BUT I CERTAINLY INTEND TO BE THE BIGGEST HIT ON BROADWAY!



"WHAT WAS IT ABOUT WHITEY LONG THAT MADE MY HEART DO TRICKS, FILLING ME WITH A DREAMY TENDERNESS? I SAW HIS FACE IN THE MUSIC I PRACTICED--AS I TRIED TO DEVELOP A BOOGIE-WOOGIE STYLE THAT WOULD MAKE ME FAMOUS!"



"THEN, ONE THURSDAY NIGHT--"

IT'S A LONG TIME BETWEEN THURSDAY NIGHTS FOR ME--CAN'T I SEE YOU SOME OTHER NIGHT DURING THE WEEK?

I'LL--I'LL LET YOU KNOW AFTER MY LESSON--THAT COMES FIRST!



"WE WERE ALONE IN THE BUS WHEN IT HALTED AFTER THE RETURN TRIP...AND AN ODD PANIC MADE ME WANT TO FLEE!"

"WAIT, JEANNIE! YOU PROMISED YOU'D LET ME KNOW ABOUT THAT DATE!"

"IT--IT'S LATE... AND ANYWAY, I HAVEN'T DECIDED!"

"BUT BEFORE I COULD GET AWAY, I FELT HIS STRONG HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS...TURNING ME AROUND..."

"I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY FROM ME! I THINK OF YOU ALL THE TIME, JEANNIE! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T...I'M A SMALL-TOWN GUY, AND YOU WANT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS... BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!"

"WHITEY, I-- I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET INVOLVED..."

"THE NEXT MOMENT, HIS LIPS CLOSED OVER MINE-- AND MY DOUBTS VANISHED IN A WILD AND MAGIC ECSTASY!"

"FOR ME, IT'S MORE THAN BEING INVOLVED... IT'S LOVE!"

"OH, WHITEY--DARLING! I GUESS IT'S HIT ME, TOO!"

"A NEW JOY AND EXCITEMENT INVADED MY LIFE--!"

"A STRIKE! HAVING FUN, DARLING?"

"OF COURSE, WHITEY! JUST BEING WITH YOU IS ENOUGH FOR ME!"

ISN'T THIS A COZY SPOT? FOOD'S GOOD HERE--

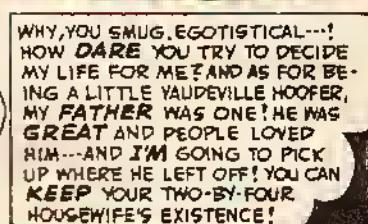
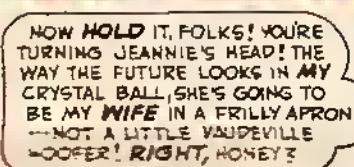
MMH... BUT THERE'S NO CHAMPAGNE ON THE MENU!

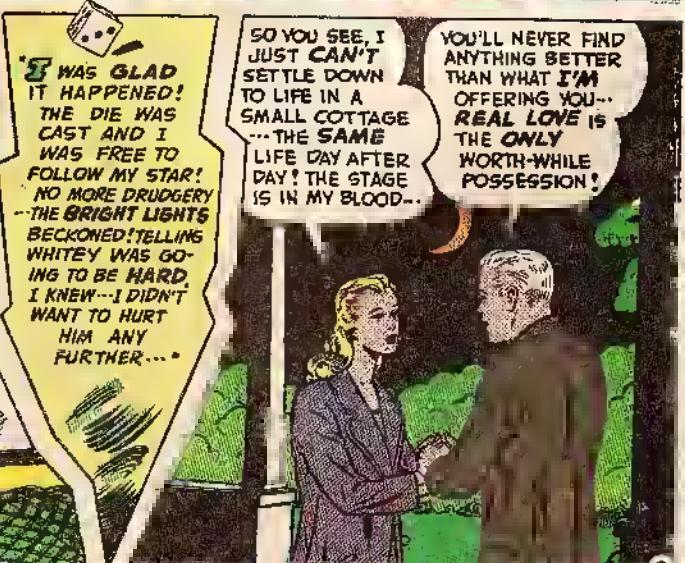
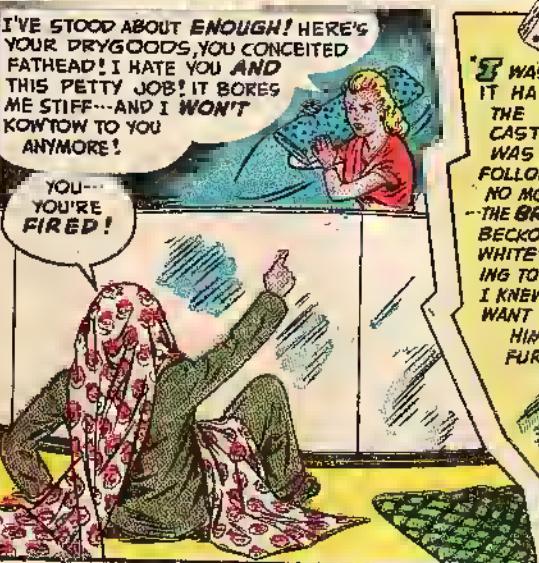
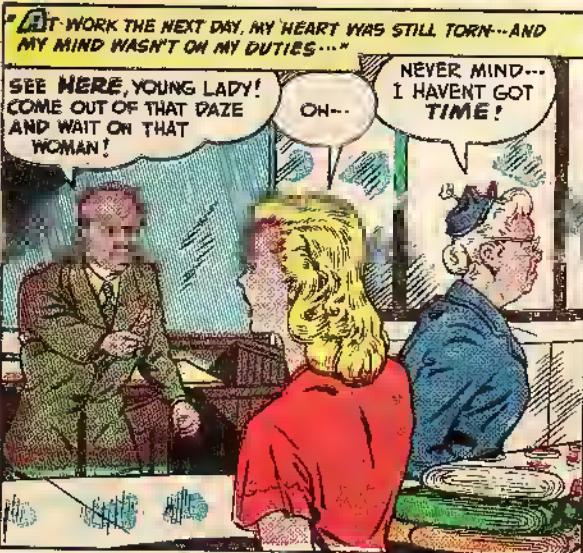
IF I WERE A STAGE STAR, I'D WEAR A GORGEOUS GOWN WHEN I WENT OUT--AND ORDER CHAMPAGNE LIKE WATER!

I LOVE YOU, JEANNIE! I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF MEETING A GIRL LIKE YOU AND SETTLING DOWN IN A SMALL WHITE COTTAGE! THAT'S MY IDEA OF HEAVEN!

OH, DEAREST--I JUST MELT LIKE BUTTER WHEN YOU HOLD ME! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT YOU!







"I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASY TO FORGET WHITEY... BUT ALL THE WAY TO NEW YORK, HIS FACE WAS BEFORE ME---THE POUNDING WHEELS REPEATED HIS NAME..."

"I--I'LL FORGET HIM IN TIME! THERE'S NEW YORK... AND THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE DREAMED OF!"

"THIS IS YOUR ROOM, DEARIE! MANY STARS STARTED HERE ---MANY FAILURES, TOO, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU!"

"OH, I WON'T FAIL! I--I'LL FOLLOW MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS!"



"THIS WAS MOTHER MAE, AN OLD TROUPER ---AND SHE'D KNOWN DAD!"

"SO YOU'RE CHUCK'S DAUGHTER! YOU CAN CALL ON ME IF YOU EVER NEED A FRIEND, HONEY! I'M AN EXPERT IN THE WAYS NEW YORK CAN BREAK A GIRL'S HEART!"



"BUT MY HEART WOULDN'T BE BROKEN---I WAS SURE OF IT! MY FATHER'S NAME WOULD OPEN DOORS---SOON I'D BE ON TOP!"



"I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF SIAM! MR. STARRET ISN'T SEEING ANYONE!"

"THE SAME STORY--- AGAIN!"



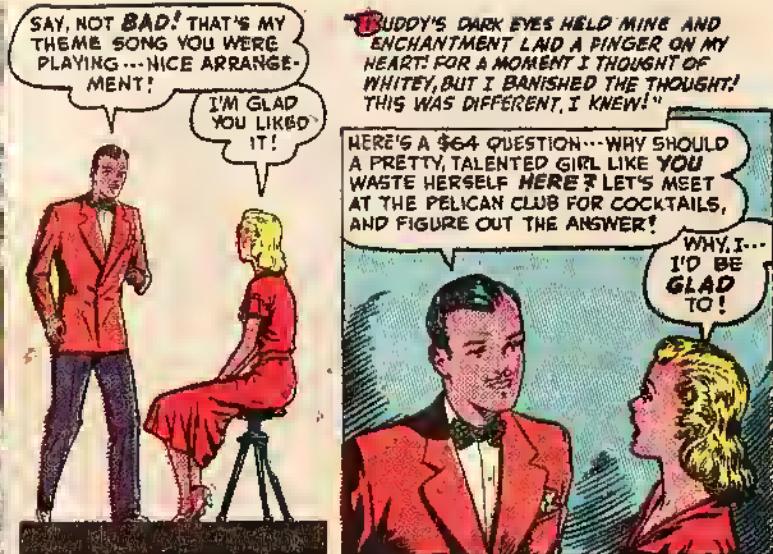
"THE DAYS DRAGGED BY WITH BEWILDERMENT TURNING TO DESPAIR! THE WORLD HAD FORGOTTEN MY FATHER---A NEW GENERATION HAD TAKEN OVER THE FOOTLIGHTS! MY SCANTY FUNDS WERE RUNNING LOW, BUT STILL I WOULDN'T GIVE UP! TEMPORARILY, I TOOK A JOB PLAYING SHEET MUSIC IN A DEPARTMENT STORE---"

"GUESS WHAT! BUDDY RICH, THE BANDEADER, IS GOING TO BE HERE TOMORROW TO AUTOGRAPH HIS LATEST SONG!"

"BUDDY RICH!"

"THIS IS A BREAK! I--I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION!"

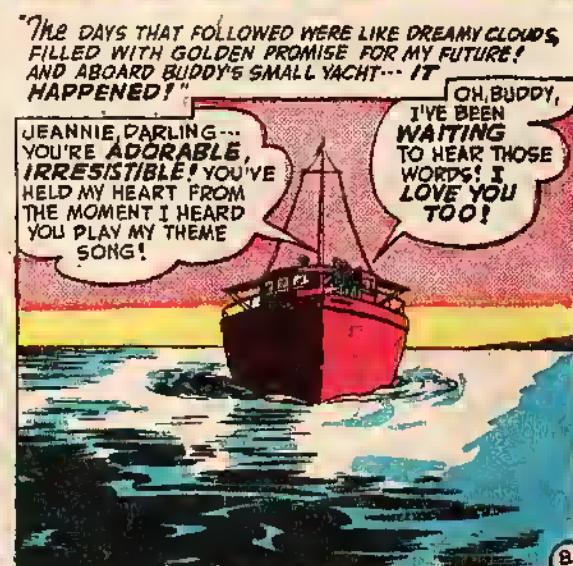


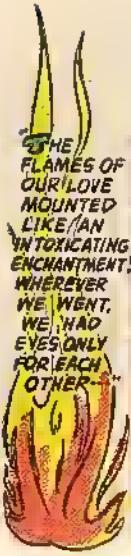


BUDDY'S DARK EYES HELD MINE AND ENCHANTMENT LAID A PINGER ON MY HEART! FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT OF WHITEY, BUT I BANISHED THE THOUGHT! THIS WAS DIFFERENT, I KNEW!

HERE'S A \$64 QUESTION... WHY SHOULD A PRETTY, TALENTED GIRL LIKE YOU WASTE HERSELF HERE? LET'S MEET AT THE PELICAN CLUB FOR COCKTAILS, AND FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER!

WHY, I... I'D BE GLAD TO!





"YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING NO OTHER GIRL HAS! YOU MAKE ME WANT TO GIVE YOU THE LIGHTS OF NEW YORK OUT THERE -- TO WEAR LIKE A STRING OF PEARLS ABOUT YOUR THROAT!"

"BUDDY... DARLING..."



"THEN HIS LIPS--IN A KISS OF FIERY RHAPSODY THAT WAS THE FULFILMENT OF EVERYTHING I LONGED FOR! I WAS THE LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!"



"BUT STILL I HELD ONTO MY JOB, PRACTICING HARD MEANWHILE FOR THE AUDITION AT THE PELICAN! BUT BUDDY KEPT TELLING ME I WASN'T READY YET! FINALLY, I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER!"



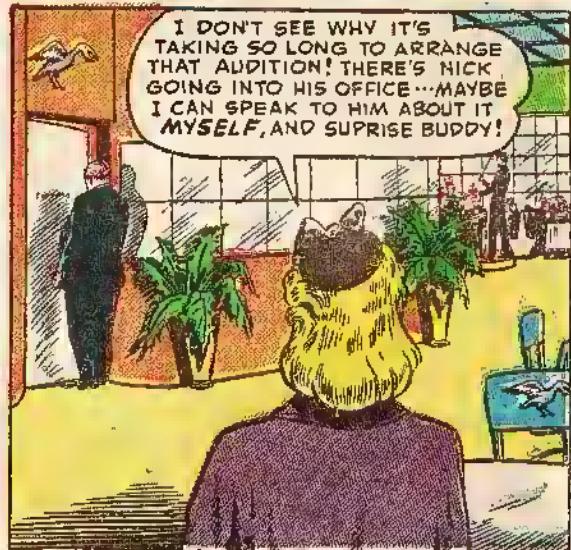
I'M JEANNIE WALKER, BUDDY'S GIRL! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU ABOUT MY AUDITION...

OH, ER--YES, THE AUDITION! LOOK, MY SECRETARY MAKES MY APPOINTMENTS! SHE'S OUT NOW--CALL HER TOMORROW MORNING, AND NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

"I WAS DOWNCAST, BUT DETERMINED TO CALL BACK TOMORROW!"

MY GLOVES... I MUST HAVE LEFT THEM IN NICK'S OFFICE!

POWDER ROOM



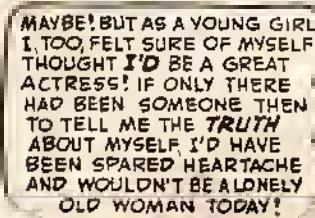
"THE DOOR TO NICK'S OFFICE WAS AJAR AND I HEARD VOICES COMING THROUGH IT! AS I LISTENED, MY HEART FROZE!"

"STILL UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, EH, BUDDY? DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF GIVING GIRLS THAT SAME LINE? LOOK, I CAN'T GIVE EVERY DOLL OF YOURS AN AUDITION!"

DON'T BOTHER--I'M JUST STALLING LITTLE JEANNIE ALONG! SHE CAN'T PLAY WORTH A DARN! SHE'S NURSING SOME DREAM ABOUT HER FATHER, AN OLD VAUDEVILLE HAM--AND SHE BELIEVES EVERYTHING I TELL HER!"

PRIVATE





"YOU'RE LUCKY TO FIND OUT NOW --- LUCKIER THAN I WAS! YOU'VE A CHANCE TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR YOURSELF, JEANNIE --- AND STOP LIVING YOUR FATHER'S LIFE!"



"MOTHER MAE'S WORDS WOKE SOMETHING IN ME! MAYBE MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS WEREN'T MINE! I HAD MY OWN DESTINY! MAYBE IT WASN'T GAIETY, EXCITEMENT, THE FOOTLIGHTS---BUT IT HAD ITS OWN REWARDS! ---OR DID IT? I HAD HAD SOMETHING FORTUNATELY THE LOVE OF AN HONEST MAN! HAD I THROWN IT AWAY?"

"WHITEY WILL NEVER WANT ME BACK NOW! I'VE THROWN AWAY MY CHANCE!"

"YOU WERE WILLING TO COME HERE TO FIGHT FOR FAME! WELL, GO BACK NOW---AND FIGHT FOR YOUR TRUE HAPPINESS!"



"AND SO, HOPE BURNING HIGH, I RETURNED TO PLAINVILLE! BUT THERE..."

"OH, SO YOU'RE BACK! COULDN'T MAKE IT---AND YOU THINK YOU CAN WALK IN ON ME JUST AS YOU WALKED OUT! WELL, IT WON'T WORK!"



"I CAME HERE HUMBLY---TO TELL YOU I LOVED YOU! BUT THAT'S CHANGED NOW! YOU'RE MEAN, UNFORGIVING---"

"I DON'T WANT YOUR KIND OF SELFISH LOVE! WE'RE THROUGH AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!"

"PLANS, HOPES, DREAMS OF HAPPINESS--- ALL VANISHED BEFORE WHITEY'S HARSH WORDS! THERE WAS LEFT BUT AN EMPTY AND BITTER LIFE! WITH NO FUNDS LEFT, I SECURED A POSITION IN THE PLAINVILLE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, STIFLING MY GRIEF IN BLEAK MONOTONY!"



"AS TIME PASSED..."

"YOU'VE HARDLY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD!"

"I'M NOT HUNGRY!"

"WHAT GOOD IS ANYTHING ---WHEN THERE'S NO ONE TO LOVE!"



"THEN IT HAPPENED---DURING THE SPRING THAW..."

"THIS IS TOM BARR, A FARMER NEAR THE CROSSVILLE BRIDGE! YOU'D BETTER WARN ALL TRAFFIC ---THE BRIDGE IS SHAKY! WATER AND ICE ARE KNOCKING OUT THE UNDERPINNINGS!"



"ALREADY WHITEY WAS EN ROUTE--- LITTLE KNOWING THE CERTAIN DOOM THAT AWAITED HIS HEAVILY-LADEN BUS! I HAD TO STOP HIM---I HAD TO!"

"LUCKY THE SUPERVISOR LEFT HER KEYS IN THIS CAR! I'VE GOT TO HEAD OFF WHITEY AND THOSE PEOPLE IN THE BUS! IT'S TOO LATE TO REACH HIM ANY OTHER WAY!"



"THE CAR CAREENED, SKIDDED CRAZILY OVER THE NARROW, WINDING ROAD! I HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT... TO REACH HIM IN TIME!"

THERE HE IS---THANK HEAVENS! IF---IF I CAN ONLY GET A BREAST OF HIM...

CROSS

WHITEY, STOP! THE BRIDGE IS BEING WASHED AWAY!
STOP! OH, THE NOISE OF THE BUG... HE DOESN'T EVEN HEAR ME!

WHAT THE --- IT'S JEANNIE, TRYING TO GET MY ATTENTION! I... I WON'T EVEN GIVE HER A TUMBLE!

"AUGH, A WILD AND DESPERATE RESOLVE CAME TO ME! I'D MAKE HIM STOP... EVEN AT THE RISK OF MY OWN LIFE! I PRESSED THE PEDAL TO THE FLOOR... AND THE COUPE SHOT ONTO THE BRIDGE!"

I MADE IT... AND... THERE GOES THE BRIDGE!

GOOD LORD, SHE'S SAVED OUR LIVES... BUT SHE'S GOING TO LOSE HERS!

CRRUNCH!

SCREECH!

HELP!
OH-HH!

HANG ON, JEANNIE!
I'M COMING TO GET YOU!

IT SEEMED HOURS LATER THAT I AWOKE IN A STRANGE, BRIGHT ROOM... TO FIND WHITEY HOLDING MY HAND GENTLY!"

DARLING, THANK GOSH YOU'VE COME TO! YOU'VE HAD A BAD SHOCK... BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

WHITEY... I FEEL SO... WEAK! YOU DON'T... HATE ME?

"IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES--LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE..."

HATE YOU? I LOVE YOU... AND ALWAYS HAVE! CAN YOU FORGIVE A PIG-HEADED GUY WHO HAD TOO MUCH PRIDE FOR HIS OWN GOOD?

MY DEAR
... MY DEAR...

"AND SO, AFTER BREAKING MY HEART TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD PAYBACK A DEBT, I LEARNED AT LAST THAT YOU CAN'T BORROW HAPPINESS... AND MY HEART CAME HOME AT LAST!"



SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bustline? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Daris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.



AFTER she wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses, Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form fitting) With Bustline Confidence!

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

SEND NO MONEY!

FREE 10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

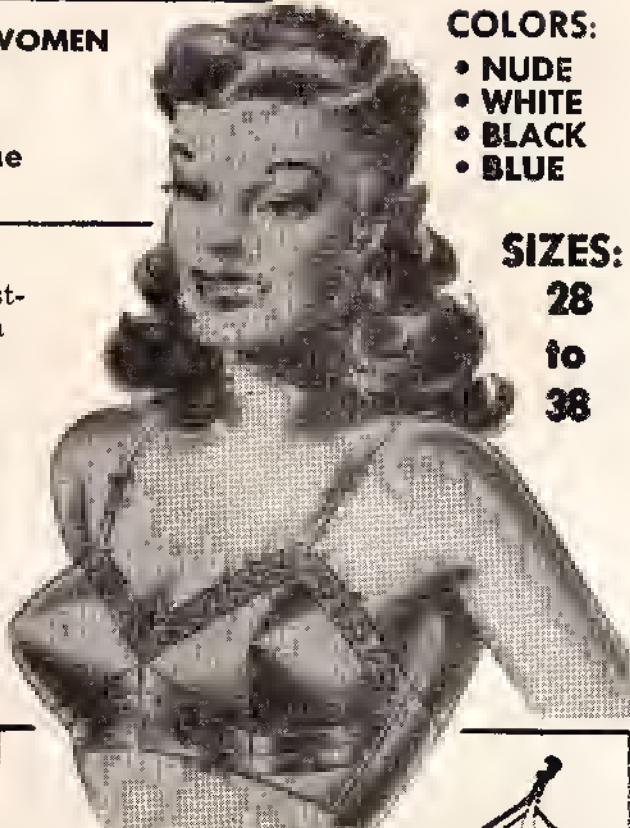
Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B12
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.

COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

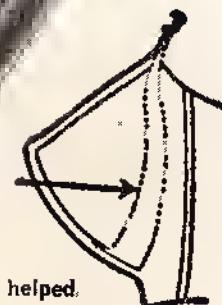
SIZES:

28
to
38



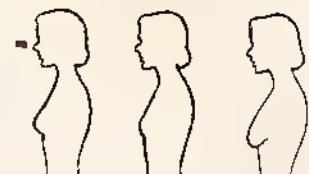
Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.



Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust molding feature on inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic instantly!



Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B-12
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color. _____ How Many. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.

AMAZING!

Special Offer!

Choose any Two!

2 DRESSES 4.50
for only 2.59 ea.

**Any 2 Colors... Any 2 Sizes
Any 2 Styles... 2 for 4.50**

**SO EASY TO ORDER BY MAIL
FROM FLORIDA FASHIONS!**



ZIP-UP STRIPES

Zip! This dress opens from pointed collar to below set-in waist band, easy-on! Whiz! Broad stripes in dramatic V's catch attention. Cap sleeves, flaring skirt. Perfect to wear everywhere. COLORS: Blue or Red. Both with Grey. SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20; 40, 42.
Order STYLE 802 **2 for 4.50**
(singly 2.59 each)

STRIPED SWEETHEART

Slimming in every size, striking in style. Cross-striped bodice with turn-back collar, V-striped flaring skirt. Separate leatherette belt. Colorfast for washing. COLORS: Blue, Green, or Red. SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20; 40, 42.
Order STYLE B12 **2 for 4.50**
(singly 2.59 each)

TESTED FOR QUALITY — O.K.
TESTED — High-Count Cotton Fabric
TESTED — Washable... Fast Color
TESTED — Full Cut... Correct Fit... True-to-Size
ALL OF THESE DRESSES ARE MADE TO FLORIDA
FASHIONS' HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND
WORKMANSHIP.

florida fashions, inc.

FLORIDA FASHIONS, INC., SANFORD 150 FLORIDA

Please send me dresses on approval at 2 for 4.50 (singly 2.59 each) plus postage and C.O.D. charges. If not delighted I may return purchases within ten days for refund. (You may enclose purchase price plus 20 cents postage, saving C.O.D. fees. Same refund privilege.)

Quan.	Style	Size	Color	2nd Color	Price	Total
1	802				2 for 4.50	
1	B12				2.29 ea.	
1	804					

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE**

You can make an exchange or get an immediate refund... no questions asked... if you are not 100% thrilled with your dresses.

FLATTERING COIN DOTS
Fashion's favorite! Yours, too. In this flatterer with broad circling full skirt, binding roll collar. Magic—it's smart looks going to market, to work, to movies. Separate belt. COLORS: Green, Red or Navy. SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44. **2 for 4.50**
Order STYLE 804 (singly 2.59 each)

Write for FREE Style Catalog!



Romantic Adventures

#6 (1950)

Scanned cover to cover from the original by [jody animator](#).

What you are reading does not exist, except as electronic data.

Support the writers, artists, publishers and booksellers so they can provide you with more entertainment.

Buy an original!